



Important Update Regarding SEA 482: Updated Attendance Law

Beginning **July 1, 2025**, Indiana's new attendance law (Senate Enrolled Act 482) goes into effect and updates how schools must monitor, report, and respond to student absences. At NLCS, we are committed to partnering with families to keep students connected, supported, and successful.

What Does This Law Mean?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A student is now considered chronically absent if they miss 10% or more of the school year for any reason—whether the absence is excused or unexcused.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ For most students, this equals approximately 18 or more days of missed school.○ Being chronically absent does not mean a student is truant or that child services will be contacted. Instead, this would be an opportunity for the school to partner with the family to provide the student with academic or emotional support.• Habitual truancy (defined as 10 or more unexcused absences) still requires schools to make a report to Child Services or the court system.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ This part of the law is not new.
Types of Absences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excused Absences (These absences count toward chronic absence total.):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Illness or injury (physician's note required)○ Medical appointments (with physician's documentation)○ Bereavement/funerals○ Religious observances○ College visits○ Other school-approved events○ Absences due to chronic illness (with physician's documentation)○ If your child is sent home from school (per the NLCS "too sick for school" policy)○ Pre-approved family events• Unexcused Absences (These absences count toward chronic absence total.):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Any absence not reported or not approved by the school office.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exempt Absences (These absences DO NOT count toward chronic absence total.): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jury duty ○ Military service ○ Legislative page service ○ Election service ○ Court proceedings for foster care ○ Approved 4-H, FFA, or State Fair participation
<p>NLCS Parent-Excused Absences</p>	<p>North Lawrence Community Schools allows up to 5 parent-excused absences per semester. These absences will still count toward the student’s total number of absences when properly documented. These should be reserved for things such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Personal or family events ● Student illness without a physician’s statement <p>To use a parent-excused absence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notify the school office in advance ● Provide a reason for the absence ● Ensure the total does not exceed 5 per semester
<p>Long-Term Medical Absences</p>	<p>If your child is expected to miss 20 or more instructional days due to a medical condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A note from a licensed medical provider is required. ● NLCS will work with the family to provide homebound or alternative instruction. ● If your child has a disability, the IEP and/or 504 team will coordinate appropriate services. ● Please reach out to your school nurse or administrator to complete the chronic illness form.
<p>Reporting Absences</p>	<p>Parents/Guardians are responsible for reporting all absences directly to the school office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Email or call the school office to report each absence by 9:00 AM.
<p>What Happens After 5 Excused or Unexcused</p>	<p>To support student attendance and our NLCS families, and in accordance with the new state law (SEA 482), the following steps will be taken:</p>



Absences?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Attendance Conference: After 5 absences, a conference will be held within 10 instructional days to assess needs and discuss barriers.2. Attendance Contract: Families may be asked to work with school staff to create a personalized plan to support improved attendance.3. Referral to Lawrence County SARB (Student Attendance Review Board): A team of school and community members will help connect families to services and may recommend next steps, including legal action if required.
Important Legal Protections	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students may not be suspended or expelled solely for chronic absenteeism, but repeated unexcused absences without communication from parents/guardians may result in legal reporting requirements.• The primary focus is to provide support for NLCS students and families.

North Lawrence Community Schools is committed to partnering with families to promote strong student attendance while also recognizing that unexpected challenges may arise. If you have any questions or need clarification about attendance procedures, please contact your school's main office directly.

To make sure absences are accurately recorded and excused, parents or guardians must report all student absences to the school office. The office staff will then update attendance records in PowerSchool, our student information system.

Any absence that is not reported to the school office will be recorded as unexcused. Families are responsible for notifying the school each time a student is absent.

Let's work together to give every student the best opportunity for success—because every day in class matters!

—NLCS Administration