

OHS Attendance

Orono High School's comprehensive strategy for attendance and student success is characterized by an adherence to state truancy laws, coupled with a proactive cultural initiative. While the Attendance and Truancy Policy defines clear expectations, consequences, and legal obligations, the "Spartan Scholar" framework fosters an environment where students are motivated to attend and engage through shared values of Integrity, Connection, and Engagement. This integrated approach underscores OHS's commitment to supporting student presence and academic achievement through both regulation and positive reinforcement.

As Spartan Scholars, We Show Up.

Every day counts. Spartan Scholars take pride in being present—ready to learn, connect, and grow.

If you would like to report an absence for your child(ren), please see the options below.

NOTE: Always report the student's full name, grade and reason. If a medical appointment, please indicate "medical" appt (no details needed, but this is coded as excused, while "appointment" is unexcused). If it is a partial day, please indicate time leaving/returning.

For any absence choose ONE of these reporting options (listed in preferred order):

- Enter absence via the [ParentVUE](#) app (if partial-day absence, enter time in the notes field)
- Email: HSAttendance@orono.k12.mn.us
- Call: 952-449-8401

***Parent/guardian handwritten notes are not accepted**

We highly recommend that you log in to the [ParentVUE](#) App and set up notifications to get attendance alerts. If you have attendance questions/concerns please reach out to: Pam Byrnes at 952-449-8408 or pamela.byrnes@orono.k12.mn.us.

Daily attendance will be recorded within 24 hours. All attendance concerns/issues should be addressed within 48 hours.

TYPES OF ABSENCES (PER SEMESTER)

EXCUSED ABSENCES

- These include illness (potentially requiring a doctor's note), family emergencies, medical/dental treatment, court appearances, religious instruction (limited to three hours weekly), active military duty, official school field trips (for students in "good standing"), suspensions, pre-arranged family trips/college visits, and mental health treatment.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- Defined as absences not approved by the state or district, or where reporting requirements are unmet. "Truancy" specifically refers to unapproved absences. Note: leaving the building without permission is considered truancy.

SCHOOL AUTHORIZED ABSENCES

Field Trips, Participation in interscholastic meets and events, participation in school-sponsored competitions, student government and related activities, verified meetings conducted with school personnel, school-sponsored testing (AP, IB, STAMP, etc).

Students with excessive excused absences (12 or more) can anticipate that they will meet with a student support staff to discuss attendance and its impact on their academic performance.

ATTENDANCE INTERVENTIONS & CONSEQUENCES

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

4 WATCH	7 WARNING	12 CONTRACT
After 4 Days UNEXCUSED absences: - Attendance Letter sent home. - Excessive tardiness or unexcused absences can lead to loss of privileges, including revocation of parking permits without refund, and ineligibility to attend events or activities, including dances or state games. - A student is considered tardy if they are less than 9 minutes late to class. A student is considered absent if they are 10 or more minutes late to a class.	After 7 UNEXCUSED absences: - Student reaches Habitually Truant status. - Parent/Guardian Contacted. - Student meets with assistant principal or other support staff to discuss chronic absences. - Legal Consequences (MN Statutes): Habitually truant students may be reported to the Hennepin County Attorney. - MN Statutes outline a process that must be followed for students who are habitually truant.	After 12 UNEXCUSED absences: - Student and Parent/Guardian in-person meets with assistant principal or other support staff to discuss chronic absences and make an attendance contract. - Attendance plan reviewed. In coordination with the Hennepin County Truancy Case Manager. - Legal Consequences (MN Statutes): Habitually truant students are reported to the Hennepin County Attorney, potentially leading to legal action for parents. - MN Statutes outline a process that must be followed for students who are habitually truant.
- School-Level Consequences: Detention is assigned for unexcused absences (1 per absence) and excessive tardies (1 per 4 tardies). Unserved detentions will be doubled - Excessive unserved detentions may impact eligibility for parking, athletics, and extracurricular activities	- School-Level Consequences: Detention is assigned for unexcused absences (1 per absence) and excessive tardies (1 per 4 tardies) Unserved detentions will be doubled - Excessive unserved detentions may impact eligibility for parking, athletics, and extracurricular activities, including dances or state games	- School-Level Consequences: Detention is assigned for unexcused absences (1 per absence) and excessive tardies (1 per 4 tardies) - Excessive absences may impact eligibility for parking, athletics, and extracurricular activities and events (including dances and state games) Unserved detentions will be doubled

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Students with excessive excused absences (12 or more per semester) can anticipate that they will meet with a student support staff to discuss attendance issues and its impact on their academic performance.

As per **Minnesota Statute 260A.02**, a child is deemed a **continuing truant** after three days of unexcused absences and a **habitual truant** after seven such days. When this threshold is reached, schools are legally obligated to refer the case to **Hennepin County** for further action, which may include legal proceedings. Our goal is to avoid this outcome through early communication and support.

15 Day Drop:

According to Minnesota State Statute 126C.05, “a pupil, regardless of age, who has been absent from school for 15 consecutive school days during the regular school year... without receiving instruction in the home or hospital shall be dropped from the roll and classified as withdrawn.”