

ATTENDANCE – HIGH SCHOOL

Regulation: **4400-R(1)**

Watauga High school recognizes the positive correlation between regular school attendance and achievement. Regular attendance, therefore, shall be required. The primary responsibility for attendance rests with students and their parent(s)/guardian(s).

In accordance with Compulsory Attendance Law, established attendance policies of the State Board of Education and Watauga County Board of Education, Watauga High School will code absences as excused for the following reasons *when valid documentation is provided within three days of the absence*:

<u>Reason for Absence</u>	<u>Required Documentation</u>
Illness or injury, death of an immediate family member, or religious observance	A signed and dated parent note will be valid documentation
Court or administrative proceedings, quarantine, or medical/dental appointment	Only official documentation from the court or administrative officer, or the medical/dental professional will be valid documentation; parent note is not sufficient
Department of Motor Vehicle Appointment	Parent Note

Educational Opportunity for Family Travel or College Visits: Prior approval form must be completed and approved within established time frame in order to serve as documentation. College visits require additional documentation from the college visited.

Student visits with a parent who is an active duty member of the uniformed services as defined by Policy 4050, Children of Military Families, who has been called to duty, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, at the discretion of the superintendent or designee. (Prior approval is required)

School releases and days assigned for ISS do not count as absences.

Days assigned for OSS are coded as a suspension. These absences will not count towards the 10% absence limit.

Students who reside on a road that has been defined by the Watauga County Transportation Director as a limited bus route and who are absent on days when limited routes are run and who furnish a written excuse from parent or guardian citing dangerous road conditions within the third day of attendance following the absence will be excused.

In all situations, students are responsible for acquiring, completing and turning in assignments and/or acquiring and responding appropriately to any information given in a missed class. Students are required to make up all work missed for all absences, excused or unexcused.

Students have one day for each day absent to turn in work. This begins the day after returning from

the absence. Teachers have the option of extending deadlines, but they are not required to do so. Work assigned prior to an absence is due the first day back to class.

In order for a student to obtain credit in a course, the student must receive a passing grade. A grade of FF may be used for a student who does not have a passing grade based on content for the course and has been absent for 10% or more of the classes for the course. All absences, excused and unexcused, count towards the 10% absence limit.

Procedures for Excessive Absences:

- The principal will appoint an Attendance Advisory Committee that will determine local protocols for working with students who have excessive absences in any given course. These procedures may include, but are not limited to, preemptive attendance meetings with students and/or parents/guardians, mentor opportunities, loss of off-campus class privileges, loss of parking privileges, and periodic notifications home regarding their absences, etc. All student-athletes will adhere to North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) attendance policies in order to maintain eligibility for practices and athletic competitions.

Unexcused Absence Policy

Watauga High school will comply with state compulsory attendance law, GS-115C-378 which establishes that: Every parent, guardian or other person in this State having charge or control of a child between the ages of seven and 16 years shall cause such child to attend school continuously for a period equal to the time which the public school to which the child is assigned shall be in session. The parent, guardian, or custodian of a child shall notify the school of the reason for each known absence of the child, in accordance with local school policy.

The principal or designee shall notify the parent, guardian, or custodian of his child's excessive absences after the child has accumulated three unexcused absences in a school year. After not more than six unexcused absences, the principal shall notify the parent, guardian, or custodian by mail that he may be in violation of the Compulsory Attendance Law and may be prosecuted if the absences cannot be justified under the established attendance policies of the State and local boards of education. After 10 accumulated unexcused absences in a school year the principal or the principal's designee shall review any report or investigation prepared under G.S. 115C-381 and shall confer with the student and the student's parent guardian, or custodian, if possible, to determine whether the parent guardian, or custodian has received notification pursuant to this section and made a good faith effort to comply with the law. If the principal determines that the parent, guardian, or custodian has not made a good faith effort to comply with the law, the principal shall notify the district attorney and the director of social services of the county where the child resides. Upon receiving notification by the principal, the director of social services shall determine whether to undertake an investigation under G.S. 7B-302. (1955, c. 1372, art. 20, s. 1; 1956, Ex. Sess., c. 5; 1963, c. 1223, s. 6; 1969, c. 339; c. 799, s. 1; 1971, c. 846; 1975, c. 678, s. 2; c. 731, s. 3; 1979, c. 847; 1981, c. 423, s. 1; 1985, c. 297; 1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 769, s. 2; 1998-202, s. 13(aa); 2001-490, s. 2.38; 2003-304, s. 3.)

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NC Administrative Code #0104

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