

A student shall be considered habitually absent or habitually tardy when all reasonable efforts by any school personnel, truancy officer, or other law enforcement personnel have failed to correct the condition after the **fifth unexcused absence** or **fifth unexcused occurrence** of being tardy within **any school semester**.

The parent or legal guardian of a student shall enforce the attendance of the student at the school to which the student is assigned.

The principal of the school, or her designee, shall notify the parent or legal guardian in writing upon a student's **third unexcused absence or unexcused occurrence** of being tardy, and shall hold a conference with such student's parent or legal guardian. The student's parent or legal guardian shall sign a receipt for such notification.

The parent or legal guardian of any student in K-8th grade who is considered habitually absent or habitually tardy shall be punished as follows:

- A first offense shall be punishable by a fine of not more than fifty dollars or the performance of not less than twenty-five hours of community service.
- Any subsequent offense shall be punishable in accordance with R.S. 17:221(A)(2)

For purposes of this section, the term, "tardy" shall include **but not be limited to leaving or checking out** of school **unexcused** prior to the regularly scheduled dismissal time at the end of the school day.

The Calcasieu Parish School Board Policy manual states the following regarding excused and unexcused absences:

- **Excused Absences**

Students shall be considered temporarily excused from school for personal illness, serious illness in the family, death in the family (not to exceed one week), or for recognized religious holidays of the student's own faith and shall be given the opportunity to make up work.

- **Unexcused Absences**

Students shall not be excused for any absence other than those listed under excused absences above and shall be given failing grades in those subjects for work missed and **shall not** be given an opportunity to make up work. Students shall not be excused from school to work on any job including agriculture and domestic service, even in their own homes or for their own parents or tutors.