LAURA INGALLS WILDER ELEMENTARY

Wilder Elementary School Tardy Policy

Tardy policies aim to teach students **responsibility, time management, and preparation.** We encourage students to arrive at school on time to reduce classroom disruptions and maximize instructional time. Even a few minutes of lateness can accumulate into significant loss of learning over a school year. For example, missing 10 minutes of class time each day results in 30 hours of missed instruction annually.

Tardy Policy

- Students arriving at school after 8:40am **MUST** check in through the office.
- All students that check in after 8:40am will be marked **Tardy** by the office or their teacher.
- **All parents** are required to sign their students in at the front office if they arrive on campus after 8:40am noting the reason for the tardy.
- **Excessive Tardies** may result in a parent meeting, attendance contracts, truancy letters, or school attendance review boards.
- **Parents/Guardians** are legally responsible for ensuring attendance and punctuality.

Legal and Policy Considerations

- Public schools must follow **state attendance laws**, which often include responses to unexcused absences and tardies. Chronic tardiness may escalate to truancy interventions or court involvement if early interventions fail. Policies must also accommodate students with disabilities according to their IEP or 504 plans.

Key Resources

- RCW 28A.225 – Compulsory school attendance and admission.
- WAC 392-401 – Attendance definitions and reporting. OSPI
- OSPI Attendance & Truancy Guidance – District procedures, CEDARS reporting, and support programs. OSPI
- OEO Attendance & Truancy FAQs – Parent and student information on tardiness, absences, and interventions Washington State Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds