



STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Policy

It is the policy of the Member Schools of the Windsor Central Supervisory Union to set high expectations for consistent student school attendance in accordance with Vermont law in order to facilitate and enhance student learning.

Background

Vermont law requires school attendance for students between the ages of 6 and 16 so a student may complete a course of study that will facilitate the transition to the responsibilities of adulthood. WCSU Schools District believes consistent attendance is a prerequisite for assuring the academic, social and emotional growth of students. In addition, regular and punctual attendance is important to the development of responsible and effective work/study habits as well as a demonstration that students are assuming responsibility for their own behavior. Encouraging students to take full advantage of their education is a shared responsibility of students, families, schools and communities.

Definitions

1. A **truant** student is one who is subject to compulsory school attendance (16 V.S.A. § 1121) and who is absent without valid cause or excuse.
2. **Valid causes** for absences include illness, observance of a religious holiday, death in the family, family emergency, and situations beyond the student's control as determined by the Principal. Other circumstances which cause reasonable concern to the parent or guardian for the health or safety of the student and are confirmed in writing or verbally by the parent or guardian of the student.

Administrative Responsibilities

1. The Superintendent (Principal) is responsible for developing procedures to guide the implementation of this policy. The procedures will address the following issues and may include others as well:
 - absentee excuses;
 - tardiness;
 - notification of parents/guardian;
 - signing out of school;
 - excessive absenteeism;
 - homebound and hospitalized students;
 - early dismissals;
 - homework assignments;
 - making up work
2. The Principal is responsible for maintaining accurate and up-to-date records of student attendance.
3. The Principal is responsible for assuring that the school has the appropriate family information that allows the school to contact the parent(s) or guardian(s) of all students whenever necessary.

Unit Board of:	Warned	Adopted	Unit Board of:	Warned	Adopted
Barnard	Feb. 13, 2012	March 12, 2012	Pomfret	Nov. 18, 2013	Dec. 16, 2013
Bridgewater	Feb. 13, 2012	March 12, 2012	Reading	Nov. 18, 2013	Jan. 20, 2014
Killington	Nov. 15, 2013	Dec. 20, 2013	Woodstock	Nov. 11, 2013	Dec. 9, 2013
WUHSMS			WCSU	Feb. 13, 2012	Mar. 12, 2012

Legal Reference(s): 16 V.S.A. §§1121 et seq. (Attendance required)

*VT State Board of Education Manual of Rules & Practices:
§2120.8.3.3*

*Cross Reference: Admission of Resident Students (F13)
Admission of Non-Resident Tuition Students (F14)*