

Monroe County School District Attendance Policy

Monroe County Students are expected to be in attendance all day on each scheduled school day. The Compulsory Attendance Law requires that all students are to be present in school every day and all day unless they have a valid excuse for the absences or tardy. Parents/Guardians need to contact the school on the day of the absence to notify them when a child is absent. One of the following "Valid Excuse" documents must be sent to the school per the guidelines in order for the absence to be excused.

Valid Excuses: Excused Absence/Tardy

Absence/tardy with one of the following Valid Excuses: All excuses must be turned into the attendance clerk within 3 days. Failure to meet this deadline will result in an unexcused absence. It is the responsibility of the parent/student to see that appropriate documents are turned in to the attendance clerks to excuse any absences.

1. **Parent Note for Sickness:** 3 days or 3 tardies or a combination totaling 3 per semester can be excused with a PARENT NOTE explaining that the child was sick and unable to attend school. Only 3 parent notes per semester are allowed.
2. **Medical Statement for Sickness:** Statements from doctors, other health care providers, or the school nurse will be accepted. Students are expected to return to school unless it is medically necessary to miss the entire day. Students are allowed 10 Medically Excused Absences per year. After the 10th medically excused absence, Monroe Medical Form (attached) must be completed by the health care provider to excuse the absence.
3. **Death of Family Member:** A funeral home card will serve as the excuse.
4. **Summons to Court:** A copy of the court document requiring the student's attendance will serve as the excuse.
5. **Extreme Emergency:** These will be excused per the school principal's discretion.
6. **EHO (Educational Enhancement Opportunity):** Parents may request a principal to grant EHO status for students to be away from school to participate in activities of a special educational nature for a total of 10 days per year that are directly related to a specific core content area. EHO status is determined by the school principal. EHO application must be submitted to the school before the date of the activity.
7. **Home Bound Instruction:** Parents of students who must be out of school for five or more consecutive days should contact the school regarding Home Bound instruction.

Students with excused absences will be allowed to make up all work missed. Make up work will not be completed during the regular school day.

Unexcused Absence/Tardy

Truancy: KRS 159.150: Any child whose attendance or tardies accumulate to THREE or more days, without valid excuse is a TRUANT.

Habitual Truancy: KRS 159.150: Any child who has been reported as a TRUANT two or more times is a HABITUAL TRUANT.

Procedures to Address Truancy and Habitual Truancy:

- 1. TWO Unexcused Absences/Tardies:** Parents are notified by letter by the school stating that the child has 2 unexcused absences/tardies and will be reported as being a TRUANT if the child has one more unexcused absence/tardy. The attendance policy will be attached to this letter.
- 2. THREE Unexcused Absences/Tardies:** A letter is sent from the school to the parents/guardians stating that the child has 3 unexcused absences/tardies and is being reported as being a TRUANT. *Middle school and freshman parents will be invited to attend a Truancy Diversion Program Workshop conducted by the Monroe County Board of Education, Department of Juvenile Services, and other Monroe County Agencies.
- 3. FIVE Unexcused Absences/Tardies:** A letter is sent from the school to the parents/guardian stating that the child has 5 unexcused absences/tardies and that they will be referred to the Director of Pupil Personnel (DPP) if they have one more unexcused absence/tardy.
- 4. SIX Unexcused Absences/Tardies:** DPP attempts a home visit and issues the Final Notice to the parents either in person or certified mail. The final notice will remain in effect for 12 months from the date it is issued.
- 5. SEVEN Unexcused Absences/Tardies:** DPP files a formal complaint with the Court Designated Worker or the County Attorney. See Below.

Students Age 5-12: Parents will be reported to the County Attorney which may lead to being charged with Unlawful Transaction with a Minor.

Students Age 12-17: Student will be reported to the Court Designated Worker.

Students Age 18 or Older: Student will be charged with Habitual Truancy with County Attorney.

Students with unexcused absences will be allowed to make up work at the teachers' discretion. Make up work will not be completed during the regular school day.

Other Attendance Details

School Level Policy: Each school will determine school specific rewards for good attendance and consequences for poor attendance. Each SBDM council will make these decisions as well as others to best meet the needs of their students.

Extra-Curricular Program Participation: Students not in attendance for the entire day will not be allowed to compete/performance/practice in extracurricular activities that day or after school. The following exceptions will be taken into consideration: death of a relative, doctor's appointment, mandatory court appearance, special circumstances (to be determined by the principal).

Perfect Attendance: The student must have ZERO absences events as well as no more than 4 tardies to have perfect attendance.

Definitions

Tardy: When a child arrives late or leaves early.

Parent Note: A statement written by parent/guardian explaining why the child was absent or tardy. This can be used 3 times per semester. Must be signed by the parent and dated. Parent Notes must be turned in to the attendance clerk within 3 days.

Medical Statements: An official statement from a doctor, or other health care provider stating that the child was unable to attend school due to sickness. Must be signed by doctor or health care provider and turned in to the office within 3 days.

Monroe Medical Form: Required form when student has 10 or more doctor's statements. The form must be completed by the doctor or health care provider for the absence to be excused.