

White River High School believes that regular school attendance is essential for an effective and productive learning experience. The sequential presentation of school learning requires a continuity of instruction. The maximum benefits for each individual child can be achieved only from participation and interaction in daily activity.

Regular school attendance is both encouraged and mandated. The primary responsibility for adherence to regular attendance rests with the student's parents/guardians and the individual student. Appropriate legal action will be taken against parents/guardians and/or students who fail to abide by Washington State Compulsory Attendance Law.

Absence

Absences from school shall be classified as either excused absences or an unexcused absence/truancy.

When a student enters a classroom more than 10 minutes late or does not attend a class or a schedule of classes it is considered an absence. Four or more absences from our seven-period day (STAT) constitute a full-day absence.

1. For every absence, the parent/guardian **must** phone or send a written note of clearance within **48 hours** to the attendance office that indicates the date and reason of the absence. If a parent/guardian does not phone or send a written note of clearance within 48 hours, the absence is considered unexcused.
2. When you return to school, you must check into the attendance office before going to class. Teachers can check status of your absence on the computer.
3. If you arrive at class more than 10 minutes late, you will be considered absent but still required to check in at the attendance office. Students are not allowed into class without a note from the attendance office.

Excused Absences

An excused absence is any absence that has the approval of both the parent/guardian and the school. **To excuse an absence, the parent/guardian must call or send a note to the Attendance Office within 48 hours of the absence.** Please give the following information: student's full name, date of absence(s), reason for absence, and parent/guardian signature (if a note). An excused absence shall not be granted if the school deems the absence(s) may cause a serious adverse effect upon the student's academic progress. After an excused absence, it is the student's responsibility to make up missing work with the teacher(s). The following are valid reasons for an excused absence:

Illness/Medical Appointments
Family Emergencies
Court Appearances
Religious Holiday
School Sponsored Activities
Funeral
Disciplinary Action or Suspension
Dangerous Weather and Road Conditions

Excessive Excused Absence Pattern

Excessive excused absences shall mean a student who is absent from school for part or all of 12 or more days on which school is held during a semester. Students who meet these criteria could be referred to White River High School CORE/SIT Teams.

A written statement from a doctor may be required in situations where a pattern of excessive excused absences from school has occurred. Absences not accounted for in this manner will be considered unexcused.

Unexcused Absences (Truancy)

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and school events during the school day. A student whose absences are not excused counts as a truancy and will be subject to disciplinary action. A student is considered truant if he/she misses any part of a period, or all or part of a school day without the school's permission and without the parent's prior knowledge.

Late Arrival Policy

- 1st Late Arrival – Warning
- 2nd Late Arrival – Re-teach Expectations
- 3rd Late Arrival – 1 Lunch Detention
- 4th Late Arrival – 1 After-School Detention
- 5th Late Arrival – 1 Friday School
- 6th Late Arrival – 1 In-School Suspension
- 7th Late Arrival – Progressive

All late arrivals are per semester, at the beginning of a new semester this policy starts over.

BECCA Bill (RCW 28.A225.010)

In accordance with the state's mandatory "BECCA" attendance laws and District attendance policies, if a student is absent without legitimate excuse for one third of the student's educational program day on seven (7) or more occasions in a calendar month and/or ten (10) in a year, the School District may file a petition with the juvenile court seeking the court's jurisdiction over the student's attendance in school. Any parent found to have violated the law may be fined up to \$25.00 per day of unexcused absence and the student will be ordered to attend school. The court may also order the parent and/or guardian to provide community service at the student's school in lieu of imposing a fine. A student who fails to comply with a court order to attend school may be found in contempt of court and may be placed in juvenile detention or receive alternative sentencing from the court.

Tardies

Students will be on time to every class every day; when students are late to class, they disrupt the instruction in the classroom. If a student is tardy to a class (including STAT), he/she will need to obtain a pass from the attendance office to be admitted to class. A student who arrives 10 minutes after class starts is considered absent rather than tardy.

- 1st Tardy: Re-teach expectations
- 2nd Tardy: Warning
- 3rd Tardy: Additional Warning
- 4th Tardy: 30-minute lunch detention
- 5th Tardy: 30-minute after school detention
- 6th Tardy: 60-minute after school detention
- 7th Tardy: Friday School
- 8th Tardy: 1 day ISS & parent conference with an administrator
- 9th tardy or more: Progressive discipline will continue and may lead to out of school suspension.

Hall Passes

You must carry a hall pass anytime you are out of your assigned class. If you are in the halls without a hall pass, you are considered truant. If you are in the breakout area, you must have a pass from a teacher and be under a teacher's direct supervision to be in that area. If you do not have a pass, you are considered truant.

Leaving Campus

White River High School is a closed campus. This means that students shall not leave the campus area once they have arrived even if first period has not yet started. If students must leave campus during the school day, they must first obtain written approval from the Attendance Office. Students leaving campus without permission or checking out through the Attendance Office will be considered truant.

“Off limits areas” are defined as areas where students are not allowed to be during the school day except for instructional purposes. These off limit areas include but are not limited to, the parking areas, stadium, bleachers, and pond. Students are reminded that the woods surrounding the school are considered off limits areas once students arrive. If you are found in an off limits area, you are considered truant.

Prearranged Absences

Any absence, which has been pre-approved through the appropriate school procedure, is classified as a “prearranged absence.” To request a prearranged absence, obtain and complete the prearranged absence form at least two days before the absence. If the prearranged absence is declined, the assistant principal will contact your parent. Prearranged absences must be approved; otherwise, the absence will be considered unexcused. You must meet the following criteria in order to request a prearranged absence:

1. You must be earning at least a “C-” in all classes.
2. You must obtain endorsement of your assigned assistant principal.
3. You must then obtain the signature of a parent/guardian.
4. Dates must not conflict with finals or project deadlines.

Assignments During Illness

Students who need to collect assignments due to short-term absence should contact the Attendance Office, which will request work from the student's teachers. Assignments can be picked up in the Attendance Office before 3:30 PM, the next school day. If a student becomes seriously ill, the parent/guardian must contact his/her counselor.