

ATTENDANCE AND TARDY POLICY

Daily, punctual attendance is an integral part of the learning experience and is required of all students to receive the maximum benefit of the educational program. Students are expected to attend classes regularly and to be on time.

A child who will be six (6) years old by September 15 must attend school that year and for the ensuing years until the child is sixteen (16) years old. If a child turns sixteen (16) after September 15, he/she must attend school during that school year.

Students of compulsory attendance age will attend school the number of days school is in session in accordance with the school calendar and state law.

Students over age four (4) on September 15 and enrolled in the statewide preschool program and students over age five (5) on September 15 and enrolled in the District's kindergarten program, may not attend the minimum days only if the student's parent notifies the District in writing of the parent's intent to remove the child from the preschool program and/or from enrollment in the District.

It is the responsibility of the parent, guardian, or legal custodian to make sure the student is enrolled in the Waterloo Community Schools attend school as required by the laws of Iowa and follow the District's policies and regulations for attendance.

Enforcement of attendance requirements is the duty of both the local school district and the county attorney. The Board of Education is required to adopt rules describing the attendance requirements for students. Students must attend at least one hundred forty-eight days, to be met by attendance for at least thirty-seven days each school quarter (Iowa Code section 280.3).

I. PRESCHOOL, ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PHILOSOPHY

The Board of Education believes the primary purpose of education is to provide an opportunity for students to develop fully the basic skills needed to function as responsible citizens in a changing world.

The Board and all school district employees believe learning takes place every day in every classroom. Students can make academic progress only if they attend school regularly and take advantage of the educational experiences offered. We believe students will receive the full value of the learning offered in our schools when they are present each day.

II. HIGH SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

There is a strong correlation between good attendance and successful completion of high school courses. Students who receive excessive excused absences can expect that their achievement will be effected even though work may be made up. Excessive absences in a class will cause the administration to recommend that the student be removed from the course. Students who fall below 5 classes (excluding

physical education) will be reassigned to an alternative setting. Interventions will be explored for excessive excused absences.

Legal Ref.: Code of Iowa, Chapter 299.1-.1A; 259A; 279.10-.11; 299A (2013) . 281 I.A.C. 12.3(6)

Cross Ref.: 501.3 Compulsory Attendance Ages

ADOPTED: 7/8/85
6/11/90
8/9/93
8/25/97
8/16/99
7/12/04
8/10/09
8/11/14
6/10/19

Reviewed: 7/97, 7/16/99, 6/3/04, 6/4/09, 6/7/12, 12/6/12, 6/9/14, 5/2/19