

Related Entries: (Not identified at this time)

### Student Attendance for Grades PreK-12

The School Board of Lee County believes that regular and punctual school attendance is crucial for a student's academic success. All students are required to attend school every day of the school year. Parents are responsible for their child's daily school attendance. This policy applies to all PreK–12 students.

#### (1) Compulsory School Attendance

- (a) All children who have attained the age of six years or who will have attained the age of six years by February 1 of any school year, or who are older than six years of age but who have not yet attained the age of 16 years or age specified by state statute, whichever is older, except as provided in this policy, are required to attend school regularly during the school year.
- (b) Children who will have attained the age of 5 years on or before September 1 of the school year are eligible for enrollment in public kindergarten for that school year and, if enrolled, are expected to attend school regularly during the school year.
- (c) Children who are enrolled in an Early Childhood Program (Pre-K) program, birth to 4 years old, are expected to attend school regularly during the school year.
- (d) A student who attains the age of 16 years during the school year is not subject to compulsory school attendance beyond the date upon which he or she attains that age if the student files a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment with the School Board. The declaration must acknowledge that the termination may reduce the student's earning potential and must be signed by the child and the parent. The school shall notify the parent of the receipt of the student's declaration of intent. A student who attains the age of 16 years during the school year is not subject to the legal sanctions for compulsory school attendance.
- (e) An exit interview must be conducted by school personnel to determine the reasons for the student's decision to terminate school enrollment and identify the actions taken to keep the student in school.
- (f) Compulsory school attendance requirements may be met by attendance in a home education program.

- 46 (g) For students enrolled in Department of Juvenile Justice Programs, the  
47 compulsory school attendance requirement is governed by state law and  
48 regulations and includes a longer term.  
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- 50 (2) Patterns of Non-Attendance  
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- 52 (a) Non-attendance for instructional activities is established by tardiness, early  
53 sign-outs, or absences for all or any part of the day.  
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- 55 (b) For enforcement of compulsory school attendance purposes, three  
56 unexcused tardies or unexcused early sign-outs may, at the discretion of the  
57 school principal, be considered equal to one day of absence.  
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- 59 (c) For enforcement of compulsory school attendance purposes, unless  
60 acceptable documentation is presented/submitted, an accumulation of daily  
61 unexcused absences or tardiness, or early sign-outs that equal 5 days in a  
62 calendar month or 10 days within a 90 calendar day period may be exhibiting  
63 a pattern of non- attendance as determined by the Child Study Team.  
64
- 65 (d) If the student exhibits a pattern of nonattendance (excused or unexcused),  
66 principals may request documentation for subsequent absences. Non-  
67 attendance for instructional activities is established by tardiness, early sign  
68 outs, or absences for all or any part of the day.  
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- 70 (e) “Habitual truant” means a student who has 15 unexcused absences within 90  
71 calendar days with or without the knowledge or justifiable consent of the  
72 child’s parent, is subject to compulsory school attendance, and is not exempt  
73 from compulsory attendance by meeting the criteria for exemption.  
74
- 75 (3) Absences  
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- 77 (a) Excused Absences - Students must be in school unless the absence has  
78 been permitted or excused for one of the reasons listed below:  
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- 80 1. Illness of the Student  
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  - 82 2. Illness of an immediate family member  
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  - 84 3. Death in the immediate family  
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  - 86 4. Religious holidays of the student’s own faith  
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  - 88 5. Required court appearance or subpoena  
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6. Special event: Examples of special events include important public functions, conferences, state/national competitions, as well as exceptional cases of family need. The student must request and receive permission from the principal/designee at least five days prior to the event.
  7. Scheduled medical or dental appointment
  8. Students having, or suspected of having, a communicable disease or infestation which can be transmitted are to be excluded from school and are not allowed to return to school until they no longer present a health hazard.
  9. Students on field trips and students who attend alternative to suspension programs are not considered absent.
- (b) Unexcused Absences – Absences not excused as defined in the previous section, are considered unexcused.
1. Students without a completed Certificate of Immunization indicating compliance with the current required schedule of immunizations will not be allowed to attend classes until this document is provided or a waiver is obtained. Absences due to non-compliance with immunization requirements shall be considered unexcused.
  2. Students transferring to Lee County who are considered homeless, children of a military family or are under the care of the Division of Children and Families, have a 30 day waiver of both health examination and immunization requirements.
- (c) Make up Work
1. Excused Absences: Make-up work for credit and grade is allowed for all excused absences. Immediately upon return to school, the student will be given the number of days absent plus one additional day to make up all work missed.
- (d) Tardiness – Tardiness is defined as a student not being in the classroom when the class is scheduled to begin.
1. Parents must follow the same process to excuse a tardy as they do to excuse an absence.
  2. Excessive tardiness shall be addressed on a case-by-case basis to determine if there is a pattern of non-attendance. Non-attendance for instructional activities is established by tardiness, early sign-outs, or absences for all or any part of the day.

- 138 3. Tardiness to any class without documentation may be considered  
139 unexcused.  
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141 4. Habitual tardiness is defined as being tardy six times within a quarter.  
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143 5. Principals have the discretion to excuse tardiness for extenuating  
144 circumstances.  
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146 6. Unless excused under the provisions of this policy, accumulated  
147 tardiness will be recorded as unexcused absences.  
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149 (e) Early Sign-Outs – Early sign-outs are defined as a parent or guardian signing  
150 out a child before the end of the school day.  
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152 1. No student shall be released within the final 30 minutes of the school  
153 day unless the principal/designee determines it is an emergency.  
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155 2. All schools shall establish procedures for early release that ensure  
156 that all students are treated consistently.  
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158 3. Excessive early sign-outs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis  
159 to determine if there is a pattern of non-attendance.  
160  
161 4. Unless excused under the provisions of this policy, accumulated early  
162 sign-outs will be recorded as unexcused absences.  
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164 (4) Driving Privileges and Attendance  
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166 (a) Attendance Requirements for Minors (from ages 14-18) to Maintain Driving  
167 Privileges:  
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169 1. Unexcused absence data shall be compiled at each Lee County  
170 School through an automated system and electronically transmitted to  
171 Information Systems (IS).  
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173 2. The information regarding each minor who accumulates 15 unexcused  
174 absences in a period of 90 calendar days shall then be transmitted to  
175 the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to include the  
176 minor's legal name, sex, date of birth, and social security number.  
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178 (5) Interventions  
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180 (a) The primary teacher of a student exhibiting a pattern of non-attendance shall  
181 notify the principal. The principal shall refer the student to the Child Study  
182 Team (CST) to develop an intervention plan to improve the student's  
183 attendance. The CST will schedule a meeting with parents or legal guardian

184 and the assigned school social worker. If appropriate, a contract will be  
185 developed and signed by the participating parties.

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187 (b) After 10 absences in a course, credit may be withheld. The Child Study  
188 Team must develop a contract with the student and parents that includes a  
189 plan to restore the credit withheld.

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191 (c) Non-compliance with the contract may result in referrals to the Truancy  
192 Intervention Program, the Truancy Ungovernable Runaway Network or the  
193 State Attorney's Office.

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195 (d) The School shall provide written notice to parents after three tardies or three  
196 early sign-outs within thirty calendar days. Additional tardies or early sign-  
197 outs shall result in two of the following interventions:

- 198  
199 1. A mandatory parent conference with the principal/designee  
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201 2. A mandatory student conference with the principal/designee  
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203 3. Other appropriate penalties such as after hours detention, in  
204 accordance with the *Code of Conduct for Students*  
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206 4. A referral to the Child Study Team or Attendance Review Committee  
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208 5. A referral to the School Social Worker

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210 (6) Students shall not be treated differently with regard to attendance on the basis of  
211 their race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or national origin.

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214 *STATUTORY AUTHORITY:* 1000.36, 1001.41, 1001.42, 1001.43, 1003.02 (1) (b),  
215 1003.26, 1003.27, 1003.52 F.S.

216  
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