

Homeless Student Support

The federal McKinney-Vento Act and West Virginia state law and policy guarantee that students can enroll in school if they live:

- *In a shelter (family shelter, domestic violence shelter, youth shelter or transitional living program);
- *In a motel, hotel or weekly rate housing;
- *In a house or apartment with more than one family because of economic hardship or loss;
- *In an abandoned building, a car, at a campground or on the street;
- *In substandard housing (no electricity, no water, and/or no heat); or
- *With friends or family because they are a runaway or unaccompanied youth.

If assistance is needed in obtaining school records, certified birth certificate, and immunization records help is available through our office.

Helpful questions to ask your school:

- *What transportation is available?
- *Are any tutoring services available?
- *If special education services are needed, who can help me?
- *Are there special classes to benefit a talent I have?
- *Are there sports, music or other activities available to me?
- *How can I receive free meals at school?
- *Are school supplies available?
- *Will I be able to go on field trips if unable to pay?

COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

[Compulsory school attendance shall begin with the school year in which the sixth birthday is reached prior to the first day of September of such year or upon enrolling in a public supported kindergarten program and continue to the seventeenth birthday.]

WV Code §18-18-1.

2017 –2018 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 14	Grades 1-12 First Day
August 17	Kindergarten First Day
August 21	Pre-K First Day
August 23	PLC - 2 Hour Early Dismissal
September 4	Holiday - Labor Day
September 20	PLC - 2 Hour Early Dismissal
October 13	FS - 2 Hour Early Dismissal
November 1	PLC - 2 Hour Early Dismissal
November 10	Holiday - Veteran's Day
November 20-22	Out of Calendar Days
November 23	Holiday - Thanksgiving
November 24	Out of Calendar Days
December 13	PLC - 2 Hour Early Dismissal
December 22	FS - 2 Hour Early Dismissal
December 25	Holiday - Christmas
December 26-29	Out of Calendar Days
January 1	Holiday - New Year's Day
January 15	Holiday - MLK Birthday
January 31	PLC - 2 Hour Early Dismissal
February 19	OSE Day - Make Up Day
February 28	FS - 2 Hour Early Dismissal
March 14	PLC - 2 Hour Early Dismissal
March 16	OSE Day - Make Up Day
March 26-29	OSE Day - Make Up Day
March 30	Out of Calendar - Make Up Day
April 2	Out of Calendar - Make Up Day
May 8	Election - No School
May 24	End 4th Grading Period
May 28	Holiday - Memorial Day
May 29	Parent Teacher Conference Day
May 30-June 29	Out of Calendar Days

Calendar subject to change due to weather

Report Cards Issued

1st—9 weeks	October 20
2nd—9 weeks	January 8
3rd—9 weeks	March 15
4th—9 weeks	Early June

Board of Education

Paul J. Derico	President
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Lewis County Schools

Attendance & Homeless Services

Keep the Focus Daily School Attendance: The Law and You!

Randall Myers
Attendance Director
&
Homeless Services Liaison
304-269-8300 ext.143



ABSENCES ARE EXCUSABLE FOR SPECIFIC REASONS

WV Code §18-8-1 and Lewis County Board of Education Policy Chapter 5.1 permits students to be excused from school for the following:

1. Personal Illness or Injury of student;
2. Personal Illness or Injury of student's parent guardian, custodian, or family member, verified by medical, osteopathic or chiropractic physician, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner;
3. Medical/Dental appointment which cannot be scheduled outside the school day; appt. documentation required.
4. Illness of student verified in writing or email by custodial parent/legal guardian (**5 days only per semester**);
5. Chronic medical condition or disability;
6. Calamity, such as fire in the home, flood, or family emergency, upon approval of principal;
7. Death in the family;
8. Leaves of Educational Value;
9. School approved extracurricular activities;
10. Legal obligation with verification;
11. Observance of religious holidays; or
12. Exceptional absences according to WV Policy 2419.

A NOTE IS REQUIRED WHEN RETURNING TO SCHOOL

When a student has been absent for any reason, a note from home is required **no later than 3 instructional days after the first day** the student's return to school.

The note must include:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| *student's name | *reason (s) for absences |
| *grade | *date of absence |
| *date of note | *signature of parent/guardian |

If a student has excessive absences or for 3 or more consecutive days, an excuse signed by a qualified health care professional may be required. Parents may write 5 days worth of notes for child illnesses per semester. Criminal truancy action will begin after **10** unexcused absences.

ABSENCE FOR OTHER REASONS CANNOT BE EXCUSED

Any absence not meeting the above requirements shall be considered an unexcused absence (WV Code §18-8-1). **Absences such as hunting, fishing, working in or away from home, babysitting, vacations, oversleeping, suspensions, truancy, or missing the school bus are unexcused.** Questions regarding any of the listed reasons will be answered by the administrator in charge of attendance at the school. **Out of School Suspensions may affect a student's driving privileges.**

ABSENCE REPORTS TO PARENTS

Absences from school are reported to parents on report cards, through telephone calls, by letters, SAT meetings or through home visits.

TARDINESS

Tardiness is defined as any arrival of a student after the time scheduled for school to begin or who is not at his/her assigned instructional location at the scheduled time for instruction. Student tardiness will be handled according to the procedures and/or rules established by each school.

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKEUP OR SCHOOL WORK DURING ABSENCE

Upon returning to school, it is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for assignments given during an absence and complete all make-up work.

For each day missed, a student will be granted a minimum of one school day for completion of assignments once they are provided.

OFFENSES & PENALTIES

WV Code states *[Any person who, after receiving due notice as hereinafter provided, shall fail to cause a child or children in that person's legal or actual charge to attend school as hereinbefore provided, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined not less than fifty nor more than one hundred dollars together with the costs of prosecution, or confined in jail not less than five nor more than twenty days. The magistrate or judge may require the parent or parents to bring the child to school and remain through the school day until such time as the magistrate or judge may determine as appropriate. Every day a child is out of school contrary to the provisions of this article shall constitute a separate offense. Magistrates shall have concurrent jurisdiction with circuit courts for the trial of offenses arising under this section.]* WV Code §18-8-2.

STUDENT DRIVER ELIGIBILITY

The WVBOE recognizes that driving a vehicle is a privilege and that WV Code §18-8-11 requires young people at least fifteen but less than eighteen years of age to maintain specified driver eligibility requirements related to school attendance, personal behavior and academic progress in order to obtain and maintain a West Virginia license or instruction permit for the operation of a motor vehicle. The student is subject to losing driving privileges by virtue of WV Code §18-8-11.

A license or instruction permit to operate a motor vehicle will be denied or revoked from any student younger than eighteen (18) years of age for any of the following reasons:

1. More than 10 consecutive or 15 total days unexcused during a school year. (**OSS are unexcused absences.**)
2. Suspension according to W. Va. Code §18A-5-1a (a) and §18A-5-1a(b) which include the following behaviors when committed on the premises of an educational facility, at a school-sponsored function, or on a school bus:
 - A. assault and/or battery on school employee
 - B. possessing deadly weapons
 - C. sale of a narcotic drug
 - D. committing an act or engaging in conduct that would constitute a felony under WV Code if committed by an adult, and/or,
 - E. unlawfully possessing a controlled substance governed by the Uniform Controlled Substances Act as described in W. Va. Code §60A-1.
3. Failing to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (five credits from the previous year). Three of the five credits earned annually must be from the core subjects: English, Math, Science, or Social Studies.

To have your drivers license reinstated, all of the requirements listed below must be met:

1. No Unexcused absences for one semester,
2. No Suspensions for any of the above,
3. Maintain a passing grade for all subjects for one full year following the revocation.