

ACTIVE SHOOTER DRILL

The District shall annually conduct an active shooter drill and school safety assessment may be conducted for all District schools in collaboration, when possible, with local law enforcement and emergency management personnel. Students will be included in the drills to the extent that is developmentally appropriate to the age of both the students and grade configuration of the school.

GENERAL POLICIES

STUDENTS COVERED BY ARKANSAS COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAWS

ACT 1230 of 1997 and ACA 6-18-201 and ACA 6-18-207 as amended by ACT 1230 of 1997 require that beginning with the 1998-99 school year every parent, guardian, or other person residing within the State of Arkansas having custody or charge of any child age five (5) through seventeen (17) years on or before August 1, of that year shall enroll and send the child to a public, private, or parochial school, or provide a home school for the child.

STUDENTS NOT COVERED BY COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW

Any student who has attained the age of 18 is no longer subject to the Compulsory Attendance Law. However, all students attending Walnut Ridge High School must comply with the attendance policy set by the school district. A student has a legal right to attend school inclusively through twenty-one (21) years of age or until he/she graduates.

Students who drop out of school will be reported to the prosecuting attorney's office and State Revenue Office.

LAWRENCE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ATTENDANCE POLICY

In an effort to be in accordance with Act 1322 of the 2013 Legislative Special Session, the Lawrence County School Board has approved the following concerning school attendance:

A maximum of seven (7) unexcused days per semester may be missed in each class before credit is denied.

Three (3) absences per semester will be excused with a note from the student's parent or guardian indicating the parent or guardian was aware of the student's absence. The signed note

must be brought to school the following day and must include a phone number so the parent or guardian can be contacted for verification.

Subsequent absences will be unexcused unless one of the following reasons is properly documented as indicated:

- Personal illness or medical appointments: doctor's note
- Death or serious illness of a family member: parent or guardian phone call to principal
- Court appearance: note from court official

Parents will be notified by mail from the principal's office when the student reaches four (4) absences and again at six (6) absences per semester in any given class or classes.

The student's parent or guardian will be allowed to petition the school or district administration for additional absences. The petition must be made before the student accumulates the maximum number of 7 absences allowed under the policy. When a student has been absent for a total of 7 days, the principal will contact the parent to determine whether a referral should be made to the legal authorities.

Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by the principal and an alternate assignment may be made by the principal to a student for the class in which he/she may lose credit.

Act 1223 of 2011 does not prohibit students from missing school for medical or dental treatment. If a student's treatment will require excessive absences, the student may petition for additional absences or may request a 504 plan. Exceptions will be made as necessary to satisfy Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plans.

Make-up work should be initiated by the student upon return to class. Failure to do so will result in the student not being allowed to make up work. One day will be allowed for each day absent. Example: If a student has been absent for two days, he/she will be given two days to make up work after returning to school unless other arrangements have been made.

A student will be counted absent from a class if he/she is more than fifteen (15) minutes late for that class.

Parents are encouraged to check their child's attendance regularly through the Home Access Center (HAC). A Link to HAC can be found on the school web page on the parent page. A user name and password to HAC will be provided at the beginning of each school year.

Seniors will be excused for two college visits. College days must be preapproved by the principal and documentation of the visit must be returned to the office in order for the absence to be excused.

Seniors are only required to attend school for the classes they need to graduate. Seniors must arrive on campus when their classes begin and may not leave until their last class needed for graduation is finished. Seniors may not arrive on campus, take a class, leave and come back for another class. Seniors must attend 4 consecutive class periods where 5th period must be included.

ABSENCES FOR SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

A student may be excused a maximum of 10 days per semester for school-sponsored activities. Absences for school-sponsored events are not recorded as an absence from school, and the student has the right to complete all assignments made during his/her absences. These assignments or equivalent assignments must be completed within a reasonable time period as determined by the instructor of any class missed.

Absences for school activities in excess of ten (10) shall be considered regular absences from school. Exceptions or extensions may be granted by the principal for school-sanctioned competitive events if the student meets the following criteria:

- The student meets all eligibility requirements for the event.
- The student has not accumulated three (3) unexcused absences, been truant, or suspended for disciplinary reasons.
- The student is maintaining a “C” average in all classes and is making satisfactory progress as indicated by grades and/or standardized test scores.

No student may participate in any school activity (athletics, concerts, plays, etc.) or practice for such an event on a day when the student was absent for more than one-half day (4 periods). There may be extenuating circumstances for more than one-half day. This absence will be evaluated by the principal before the student can be declared an eligible to attend or participant in the school activity.

ENROLLMENT

Students required by the Arkansas Compulsory School Attendance Laws to be enrolled in school can do so by filling out the necessary registration forms at the high school principal’s office, providing the required records, and meeting with the counselor to complete a class schedule. The required records are the following:

Three proofs of residency are required for enrollment in the Lawrence County School District. **All proofs must be current (in the past 30 days).**

One of the Following:

- Lease Agreement
- Rent Receipt
- Mortgage Statement
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Two of the Following:

- Utility Bill (or deposit receipt)
- Cable Bill (or deposit receipt)
- Copy of Driver’s License with correct address
- Proof of Voter Registration at current address

- Assessed Property in Lawrence County School District
- Insurance of property in Lawrence County School District
- Name of last school attended for request of records or bring transcript and/or withdrawal grades when enrolling.
- Immunization records
- If not a resident of Walnut Ridge, a student must have completed a Freedom of Choice form or have been granted a legal transfer from the district in which the student resides. Proof of residency can be required. These conditions affect eligibility for enrollment in Walnut Ridge High School and also participation in some extracurricular activities.
- Date of birth must be proven by one of the following methods:
 1. Birth Certificate
 2. A statement by the local registrar of a county recorder certifying the child's date of birth
 3. An attested baptismal certificate
 4. A passport
 5. An affidavit of the date and place of birth by the child's parent or guardian
 6. Previous school records
 7. United States military identification.

After 15 days of a semester, a student cannot enter the Lawrence County School District unless he has been enrolled in another school during the current semester.

Students in grades nine through twelve (9-12) are required to schedule and attend at least 360 minutes of regularly scheduled class time daily. Part of this requirement may be met by students taking post-secondary courses. Eligible students' enrollment and attendance at a post-secondary institution shall count toward the required weekly time of school attendance. Each credit hour shall count as three (3) hours of attendance time, meaning a three (3) hour course will count as nine (9) hours of the weekly required attendance time.

Study Halls - Students may be assigned to no more than one (1) class period each day for a study hall that the student shall be required to attend and participate in for the full period. Such study halls are to be used for the purposes of self-study or for organized tutoring which is to take place in the school building.

Extracurricular Classes - Students may be assigned to no more than one (1) class period each day for organized and scheduled student extracurricular classes that the student shall be required to attend and participate in for the full class period. Extracurricular classes related to a seasonal activity shall meet for an entire semester whether or not the season ends prior to the end of the semester. Students must attend and participate in the class for the entire semester in order to receive credit for the course. For the purpose of this policy, extracurricular classes are defined as school sponsored activities which are not an Arkansas Department of Education approved course counting toward graduation requirements or classes that have not been approved by the Arkansas Department of Education for academic credit. Such classes may include special interest, fine arts, technical, scholastic, intramural and interscholastic opportunities.

Course Enrollment Outside of District - Enrollment and attendance in vocational-educational

training courses, college courses, school work programs, and other department-sanctioned educational programs may be used to satisfy the student attendance requirement even if the programs are not located at the public schools. Attendance in such alternative programs must be preapproved by the school's administration. The district shall strive to assign students who have been dropped from a course of study or removed from a school work program job during the semester into another placement or course of study. In the instances where a subsequent placement is unable to be made, the district may grant a waiver for the student for the duration of the semester in which the placement is unable to be made.

In rare instances, students may be granted waivers from the mandatory attendance requirement if they would experience proven financial hardships if required to attend a full day of school. The principal shall have the authority to grant such a waiver, on a case-by-case basis, only when convinced the student meets a proven financial hardship.

In any instance where a provision of a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) conflicts with a portion(s) of this policy, the IEP shall prevail.

LEGAL CUSTODY

Act 660 of 1993 indicates that in order to avoid continuing child custody controversies for involving public school personnel and to avoid disruptions to the educational atmosphere in the school, the transfer of a child between the child's custodial parent and non-custodial parent...when both parents are present...is prohibited from taking place on the real property of an elementary school on normal school days during normal hours of school operation.

The provisions of this policy shall not prohibit one parent (custodial or non-custodial) from transporting the child to school and the other parent (custodial or non-custodial) from picking the child up from school at prearranged times on prearranged days if prior approval had been made with the school's principal.

When the non-custodial parent is to be denied access to the student, the custodial parent must provide the principal with the following:

1. A copy of the court order giving the custodial right to the parent, and;
2. A copy of the court order denying the non-custodial parent access to the student, and;
3. A written statement to the principal that such denial is approved by the custodial parent.

LEGAL NAMES

Students must use their legal birth names for all official school documents. Name changes will only be accepted upon receipt of a court order.