

Attend Today...Achieve Tomorrow



Welcome Back!

WCS team members are looking forward to partnering with you for a great 2018-19 school year! You'll notice an increased emphasis on student attendance in accordance with new state guidelines, so please reinforce from home the importance of your child being present and ready to learn each day. Encouraging regular **school attendance** is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success—both in school and in life. When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child get better grades, develop healthy life habits, avoid dangerous behaviors and have a better chance of graduating from high school.

New Progressive Truancy Intervention Plan “Check & Connect”



All students must follow the new state law, which requires school personnel to intervene with services for students who accrue 5 or more unexcused absences during the school year. A student's **first eight absences can be excused with a note from a parent**, but a **doctor's note must be submitted after eight absences**.



Tier One (5+ Unexcused Absences)

- ❖ Schools will **check** attendance and **connect** students and families with school-based Truancy Team members to create an attendance contract and monitor progress.

Tier Two (Continued Accumulation of Unexcused Absences)

- ❖ A school-based Truancy Team member will **check** student needs via an individualized assessment and will **connect** families with the district Truancy Interventionist, who will determine appropriate next steps and coordinate wraparound services to support attendance.

Tier Three (Continued Accumulation of Unexcused Absences/Non-compliance with Tier 2 Mandates)

- ❖ A school-based Truancy Team will **check** student progress and determine appropriate next steps, which could include filing a petition with juvenile court if previous **connections** have failed.

Every Minute Matters

- ❖ Research shows that POOR ATTENDANCE is directly linked to REDUCED ACADEMIC OUTCOMES for students.
- ❖ All types of absences – excused, unexcused and suspensions – mean time away from learning.
- ❖ Studies show that even just two to three nonconsecutive absences per month can lead to academic failure if they continue throughout the year.



If you would like additional information or support regarding any attendance matter, please contact Angie Prorise, WCS Truancy Interventionist, by phone at 615-472-2470 Ext. 12352 or via email at angiep@wcs.edu.