

Regular daily attendance is essential for success in school. The Weymouth Public Schools recognizes that attendance is a shared responsibility among students, parents, and educators. Students are expected to attend every day that school is in session. School attendance is governed by state law (Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 76, Sections 1 & 2, which state that no child may exceed seven (7) days absence from school or fourteen (14) partial days, which includes tardies and dismissals, in any six-month period except for:

- Documented medical illnesses or medical appointments
- Legal obligations or court appearances
- Bereavement due to an immediate family member
- College or private school visits
- Observance of religious holiday

Parents or guardians of school age children are required to have them attend school. Failure to do so can result in court fines and actions. Students who fail to attend school in accordance with the above descriptions will be referred to the district attendance officer for possible court involvement. Additionally, school-based consequences may be assigned.

Middle School Practices

Absences

- On the fifth day of absence, parents/guardians of students will be notified by letter of the expectations for students to come to school.
- On the seventh unexcused absence, referral will be made to the district attendance officer. A school based CHINS (Child In Need of Services) petition may be discussed.
- On the tenth day of unexcused absence, CHINS will be filed on behalf of the student and a violation of Chapter 76, Section 2 – Duties of Parents: Penalties will be filed against the parent/guardian.

Tardies/Dismissals

- Students are allowed three excused tardies/dismissals per term.
- Once a student has reached three tardies/dismissals in a term, parents/guardians receive a letter outlining consequences for any additional tardies/dismissals in that term.
- Students who are tardy/dismissed 4 through 6 times receive a lunch detention for each of those instances
- Students who are tardy 6 times may receive a morning wake up call one hour prior to the opening of school.
- Students who have six to nine tardies/dismissals will receive two lunch detentions or one after school detention for each of those instances.
- Any additional unexcused tardies/dismissals after 9, the student is subject to in-school suspension and a CHINS petition may be filed.
- Under Chapter 76, Section 1, unexcused tardies/dismissals are considered partial days and also are calculated when filing a CHINS or a violation of Duties of Parents.