

What are the consequences for being cited as an habitual truant?

An “habitual” truant is a child, ages 12 to 17 years, who fails to comply with the intervention plan developed by the school, the child, and parent(s) or guardian(s) and who accumulates two or more additional unlawful absences. This child may need court intervention, and an initial truancy petition may be filed. The written intervention plan and documentation of noncompliance must be attached to the truancy petition asking for court intervention.

What happens if the habitually truant student is cited again for truancy?

A “chronic” truant is a child, ages 12 to 17 years, who has been through the school intervention process, has reached the level of an “habitual” truant, has been referred to Family Court and placed on an order to attend school, and continues to accumulate unlawful absences. Should other community alternatives and referrals fail to remedy the attendance problem, the “chronic” truant may be referred to Family Court for violation of a previous court order. All school intervention plans existing to this point for the child and family must accompany the Contempt of Court petition, as well as a written recommendation from the school to the court on action the court should take.

When attendance problems arise, is assistance available to students and parents?

To ensure that attendance is coordinated at all levels, each school must utilize its attendance committee or convene the school’s Response to Intervention Team on a regular basis to address issues of student attendance. The school attendance committee will be chaired and coordinated at each school by the assistant principal.

Other members of the attendance committee should include, but are not limited to, the following staff: the district’s coordinator of attendance and drop-out prevention, school resource officer, in-school suspension supervisor, school counselor, database specialist, and attendance secretary.

The attendance committee should meet a minimum of twice per month to discuss the school’s progress on meeting the established attendance goals.

Swansea High School Attendance Make-up Policy

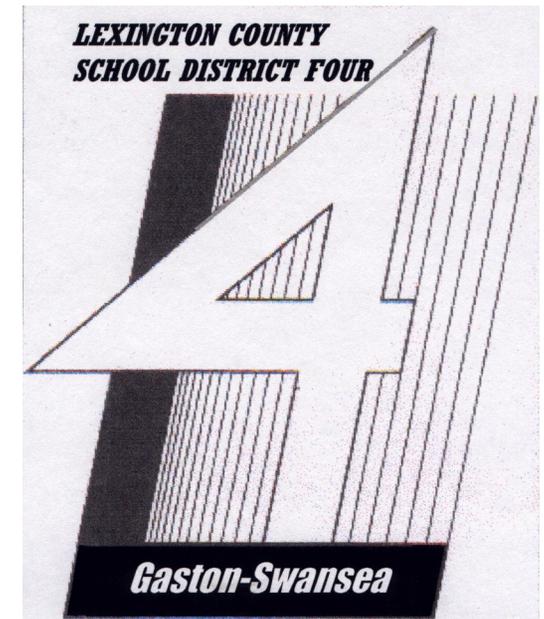
Attendance make-up will be provided for students. First, priority will be given to upperclassmen and those students needing credits toward graduation. This opportunity is provided to allow students to receive credit for courses they are passing academically but have accumulated more than ten (10) absences in a whole-unit course and five (5) absences in a half-unit course. Credit cannot be awarded to a student who has been present **LESS THAN 170** days of attendance in a whole-unit course and **LESS THAN 85** days of attendance in a half-unit course.

Students will be charged \$5 for each class period of attendance they wish to make up. (Four class periods of attendance make-up is two hours and will cost \$20.) Participation in attendance make-up is voluntary. Students must meet academic requirements of their course to receive credit. Attending attendance make-up does not guarantee a passing grade. Students will meet expectations of the program (which may include work detail), and each half-hour is considered a class absence make-up.

Students who lose credit due to absences will receive a grade of 61 as their final grade as mandated by the state uniform grading scale. GPAs are affected. Students who do not abide by the attendance time schedule and behavior requirements will forfeit their opportunity to make up absences.

Lexington School District Four

A Parent’s Guide to Understanding School Attendance



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Mission and Purpose

To build a learning network that includes students, parents, community members and the school faculty; A network that embodies open and responsible Communication; positive, engaging environment; technology integration, training and support; and increased measurable academic success

Lexington School District Four believes that in order for students to be successful academically, they must attend school regularly. Parents/guardians are encouraged to work with school staff to resolve issues that prevent students from having regular school attendance.

Who must attend school?

Lexington School District Four expects each student to attend his/her assigned school daily for the entire period of every school day except in cases of illness, family emergency, or other reasons specifically stated in this rule. A student who fails to attend his/her assigned school when he/she is physically and circumstantially able to do so and has accrued three consecutive unlawful absences or a total of five unlawful absences is truant. Such a student is in violation of the South Carolina Compulsory School Attendance Law, which requires school attendance regardless of marital status or pregnancy for children who reach their 5th birthday before September 1st until they reach their 17th birthday.

What happens if a student is dismissed early?

Repeated early dismissals from school can negatively affect your child's academic performance. The administration may develop an attendance plan for students with frequent early dismissals from school. Please review the early dismissal policy for each particular school as found in your student's school handbook. Students will be called to the office for early dismissal upon the arrival of the parent/guardian. Students may not be signed out early within 30 minutes of dismissal time. After the deadline, parents will have to wait until the regular dismissal time.

What happens if a student is late to school or class?

Students arriving after the tardy bell are considered tardy. Each school has a tardy policy that determines consequences for students being late to class. Please review the tardy policy for each particular school as found in your student's school handbook.

What is the procedure that should be followed after an absence?

Students who have been absent must provide a written notice within three school days from the parent/guardian to the school explaining the reason for the absence. The explanation must include the following information:

- First and last name of the student
- Date(s) the student was absent
- Reason for student being absent
- Telephone number where the parent/guardian may be reached
- Required signature

In all cases of absences, the student will be given an opportunity to make up the schoolwork missed. Make-up assignments for absences must be completed and submitted to the teacher within 10 consecutive school days after the student returns to class. In cases of extended illness, teachers may provide additional time for students to complete assignments. Teachers also may schedule make-up examinations beyond the 10 days normally allowed for make-up work. It will be the student's responsibility to contact the teacher for make-up assignments. Make-up assignments may, for necessity, vary from actual class work missed.

What happens if notification regarding the absence is not provided to the school?

The parent/guardian is required to submit a written excuse to the school after the student returns to school. If the excuse is not submitted, the student's absence will be considered unexcused. A phone call CANNOT replace the written excuse.

For additional attendance information, please refer to the Lexington School District Four Parent/Student Hand-

What is the limitation of absences?

The State Compulsory Attendance Law requires parents to ensure their children attend school everyday. The limitation of absences as defined by state law is three consecutive unlawful absences or a total of five unlawful absences. The law allows each student 10 LAWFUL days (parent notes) during one school year.

[Swansea High School Attendance Policy](#)

Swansea High School operates on a seven-period schedule. Classes meet for 180 days for one-credit courses and 90 days for half-credit courses (Driver Education is 180 days but is a half-credit course). Students must be in attendance 170 of the 180 days to receive credit for yearlong courses. All absences labeled as P [parent note] and U [unverified] are counted as part of the 10 days per yearlong course a student may miss.

What are the consequences for exceeding the limitation of absences?

Once students accumulate three consecutive unexcused absences or five cumulative unexcused absences, the database specialist, attendance secretary, or assistant principal will contact the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian should be instructed to schedule an appointment to meet with the attendance committee chairperson to complete an Attendance Intervention Plan (AIP). In the event that the parent/guardian does not respond to attempts to make contact and schedule a meeting, it is permissible for the school to send the AIP by certified mail to the parent/guardian. Should the parent/guardian refuse to cooperate with the intervention planning, and the student accumulates two additional unexcused absences, a petition may be filed.

A petition may also be filed should the parent/guardian develop an AIP and fail to comply with the plan, and the child continues to accrue unexcused absences. In either situation, the child is deemed an "habitual truant," according to the South Carolina Compulsory School Attendance Law.