

Attendance Matters at WUSD

At Willcox Unified School District, we believe that regular attendance is one of the strongest predictors of student success.

Arizona law defines chronic absenteeism as missing 10% (14 days) or more of the school year for any reason. For our four-day school week calendar, this equates to approximately:

- **7 days missed before Winter Break**
- **7 days missed after Winter Break**

These absences include **all reasons for missing school**, including excused reasons of illness, medical appointments, bereavement, and family emergencies or unexcused reasons like family vacations and other personal circumstances.

While we understand that illnesses and family emergencies occur, we ask families to carefully consider non-essential absences and schedule appointments or vacations outside of school days whenever possible.

If a student exceeds the attendance threshold, two types of consequences may occur:

Truancy Citation

Truancy occurs when a student is absent for **5** unexcused absences, where the parent does not notify the school regarding the absence or the reason for the absence is determined to be unexcused under the state attendance guidelines.

Consequences for truancy include:

- Truancy proceedings, including the issuance of a truancy citation by our School Resource Officer.

Excessive Absences

Even when parents contact the school and absences are excused, students who exceed the 10% (14 days) attendance threshold may still be considered excessively absent.

Consequences for excessive absences may include:

- Required attendance at summer school to recover lost instructional time, and/or
- Repetition of school year/credits, and/or
- An excessive absences citation issued at the discretion of school administration and local authorities.

Our goal is not to punish families but to partner with you to ensure that every student receives the full benefit of their education. If your family is experiencing circumstances that make regular attendance difficult, please contact the school office. We are committed to working with families to identify supports and resources that help students attend school consistently.

Thank you for partnering with us to make attendance a priority and to ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Willcox Unified School District