

Cherrydale Elementary School

Attendance Policy

I. Absences

- a. The school year consists of 180 school days. The Education Improvement Act requires that students attend 170 days of each school year.
- b. Student absences, either excused or unexcused, except with doctor notes, may not total more than TEN (10) DAYS during the school year. Any absence above ten (10) days may result in the student repeating his/her grade, or there may be legal consequences for the parent.

II. Tardies

- a. School begins at 7:45am.
- b. Your child is late, if he/she enters the building at 7:45am. At this time, your child will not be able to go straight to class; he/she will have to get a tardy slip.
- c. Your child is only allowed 3 tardies each nine weeks to be eligible for perfect attendance.

III. Parent Responsibilities

- a. It is your responsibility to send a medical, parent or bereavement note into school on the first day your child returns from being absent.
- b. If your child absent three consecutive days of school or five cumulative days of school without a lawful absence, you will be required to attend a Student Attendance Intervention Conference.
- c. When your child enters the building at or after 7:45am, it is your responsibility to walk your child into school and sign them in for school.

IV. Lawful Absences

- a. Student's illness verified by a statement from a physician or parent note.
- b. Illness or death in the student's immediate family verified by a statement from parent in the event of illness or funeral program in the event of a death.
- c. Recognized religious holiday of the student's faith when approved by the principal in advance.
- d. Activities that are approved in advanced by the principal.

V. Student Attendance Intervention Conference and Discipline Referrals– Parent(s) Must Attend

- a. This conference and/or discipline referral occurs when your child is absent 3 consecutive days or five cumulative days without the absences being lawful.
- b. The purpose of the conference and/or discipline referral is to identify reasons for the student's unlawful absences, develop a plan to improve attendance and educate parent(s) of the South Carolina Compulsory School Attendance Law.
- c. Parents of students who are absent more than 10 days without a doctor's note will be referred to Family Court for Educational Neglect. Any absence after 10 must be excused by a doctor's note. A parent note will not be accepted unless approved by the principal.