Student Attendance Guidance: Beyond Brick & Mortar
Connected, Engaged, and Supported
2020-2021

Rationale: Typically, student attendance is based solely on a student’s physical presence in a traditional classroom. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, school districts have been educating students through a variety of Blended, Distance, Remote, and Virtual Learning platforms. In these times, physical presence is often an insufficient measure of student attendance.

For the 2020-2021 school year, our modified definition of Student Attendance is, “being present for learning opportunities provided to students”.

A student is “present for a learning opportunity” when they demonstrate evidence of connectivity with teachers/peers and engagement with instructional content. This evidence may be measured through:

- Physical presence in a classroom, live interaction with their teacher, peers and/or instructional content.
- Synchronous (at the same time) online interaction with teachers, peers and/or instructional content.
- Asynchronous (at different times) online interaction with teachers, peers, and/or instructional content.

In-person Classroom Attendance:
- “Connect and Engage” - If the student is present in their classroom(s), they are present for and able to participate in the learning opportunities provided by the teacher.
- Tardiness and missing part or full day all represent absence, therefore a loss of vital learning opportunities.
- Marion County Attendance Policy will apply for In-person instructional days.

**COVID-19 Absence Allowance:**
- A student will be excused if the student is in quarantine for two (or more) weeks due to a positive COVID-19 test or has had close contact with someone who has tested positive.
- A parent/guardian should notify the school by phone at the onset of the circumstance.
- For the absence to be considered excused, the student should continue to engage in learning opportunities via the Distance Learning platform.
- A doctor’s note, documentation from the Marion County Health Department, or a parent note will be required upon return.

(Continued)
Remote/Distance Learning Attendance:
Remote/Distance Learning opportunities take place outside of a physical school building. Students are engaged and participating in learning from home, instruction is provided by a Marion County teacher, utilizing a digital platform with Marion County curriculum and instructional materials.

- A student is present for Remote/Distance Learning opportunities if they:
  - “Connect” - log in to and participate in learning opportunities as assigned by the teacher/school,
  - “Engage” - complete assigned learning opportunities (assignments, projects, assessments, etc.).

“Connect and Support”
- School staff will provide meaningful contact (2-way correspondence) with students receiving Remote/Distance Learning at least 2 days per week.
- A 48-hour grace period will be given for return contact by the student or parent.
- If technology or connectivity issues prevent a student from being present for Remote/Distance Learning opportunities, the family must contact the school as quickly as possible for technical support, corrective actions, and possible make-up opportunities.

- If there’s no evidence of participation in learning opportunities (engagement) and/or no contact is able to be made with the student/family (connectivity) during a single week, the student will be considered absent for that week.
  - After two consecutive weeks of no engagement and connectivity, the school may contact the Marion County Attendance Director for assistance.
  - Marion County Attendance policy will apply for excessive unexcused absences.

Virtual School Attendance:
Virtual school learning opportunities take place outside of a physical school building and are presented by WV Virtual School facilitators instead of Marion County School teachers. Virtual learning opportunities are primarily asynchronous and self-paced.

- A student is present for the virtual course learning opportunities if they both:
  - “Connect” - log in at least once a week to each virtual course,
  - “Engage” - maintain a course average of at least 60% for each virtual course.

“Connect and Support”
- Elementary school students must participate in a weekly conference with their WV Virtual School facilitator.
- Middle and High school students must participate in a weekly check-in with their WV Virtual School facilitator.
- Middle and High school students participating in WVSSAC activities must participate in a weekly meeting with their WV Virtual School facilitator.

TDM 8/24/2020