



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,
 - AND**
 - **“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,
 - AND**
 - **“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.