

Parents/Guardians,

Attendance is important. Chronic absenteeism is linked to diminished success both in school and beyond. Our state recently adopted chronic absenteeism as the non academic indicator on our School Report Card A-F System. We are one of 36 states using this indicator for school achievement. The state compulsory attendance law requires a student to be in attendance at least 90% of the time to earn credit for a course. With the adoption of the chronic absenteeism indicator, all absences are included in the calculation. Included in this letter is information from the OKSDE and from district policy. To align with this indicator and our district school board policy adopted in 2014, we have evaluated the high school attendance policy and determined that the implementation of the policy in practice did not match the written policy.

A semester at Tuttle is generally around 90 days. As you can see, for attendance to fall above 90%, a student can have no more than 4 absences for a quarter or 8 for the semester ( $45 \times 0.1 = 4.5$ ,  $90 \times 0.1 = 9$ ) to receive credit for a course. While a student, according to district policy, is allowed to miss a maximum of 6 absences per single quarter, the total absences must not be more than 8 for the semester to receive credit for a course. Starting in the spring semester of the 2018-2019 school year, our attendance practice will match the written attendance policy. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school.

According to the OKSDE, “Chronic absenteeism is linked to lower academic performance, higher dropout rates and diminished success after high school. A student is considered chronically absent if he or she misses 10 percent or more of school days for any reason – excused or unexcused.”

[https://sde.ok.gov/sites/ok.gov.sde/files/documents/files/Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20-%20Chronic%20Absenteeism%20\(002\)\\_0.pdf](https://sde.ok.gov/sites/ok.gov.sde/files/documents/files/Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20-%20Chronic%20Absenteeism%20(002)_0.pdf) )

Thank you,

Tuttle High School

### Good Attendance

Student has missed fewer than 5% of school days (generally less than 4 or 5 days in a semester)

### At-Risk

Student has missed between 5% and 10% of school days (generally between 5-9 days in a semester)

### Chronic Absence

Student has missed 10% or more of school days (generally 9 days or more in a semester)

## ATTENDANCE

School is preparation for future life and it is important that habits of regular attendance be developed. Parents are required to telephone the attendance secretary each day of absence. Principals will make the final determination as to whether or not an absence is excused or unexcused. Parents should call the school prior to or on the day of the students' absence.

Students of Tuttle High School are expected to maintain good attendance. The following criteria for attendance have been established:

1. Students must be in attendance a minimum of 90% (NINETY PERCENT) of the time to receive CREDIT for that semester (maximum of 6 absences per block).
2. Credit will only be granted after the sixth absence for the following reasons:
  - DOCUMENTED illness, injury, or death in the immediate family
  - DOCUMENTED court appearance

Attendance is important! Schools are required by State law to keep an accurate record of attendance. A student must be in attendance 90% of the term. A student may not have more than 6 absences per block. Legitimate illness accompanied by a doctor's statement may be deducted from the six, depending upon the decision of the attendance review council, which is made up of the principal, assistance principal, and counselor. A student and/or his or her parent or guardian will be notified as needed via mail, phone or personal contact regarding attendance issues.

Students must be in class for **35 minutes to be counted present for that class; and, if a student misses the first 15 minutes of class he/she will be counted absent.**

**Oklahoma truancy laws require notification for a child's absence for more than 4 days (or parts of days) within a 4-week period or 10 days within a semester.**

Students missing school for non-approved school activities may be considered as an unexcused absence at the building principal's discretion. This will result in a zero for work in the class