

Hawaii State Compulsory Attendance Law

The Hawaii Revised Statute, Section 302A-1132, states: Unless excluded from school or excepted from attendance, all children who will have arrived at the age of at least six years, and who will not have arrived at the age of eighteen years, by January 1 of any school year, shall attend either a public or private school for, and during, the school year, and any parent, guardian, or other person having the responsibility for, or care of, a child whose attendance at school is obligatory shall send the child to either a public or private school.

The State of Hawaii, Department of Education, also defines truancy as unauthorized absences from school. Currently Section 302A-1135 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes states that if any child of school age persists in absenting oneself from school, the family court judge, upon a proper petition, citation, or complaint being made by the school teacher or any other officer or agent of the department, or police officer, or any other person, shall cause the child, and the father or mother, guardian, or other person having charge of the child, to be summoned to appear before the judge. Upon its being proved that the person responsible for the child had not used proper diligence to enforce the child's regular attendance at school, the responsible party shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

Wheeler Attendance Incentives

Quarterly Classroom Attendance Incentive. Within each grade level, the class with the highest attendance rates will receive an award from the Principal.

Quarterly Individual Attendance. Every quarter, we will recognize our perfect attendance students with an award. The award is also for parents for putting education first! Mahalo!

For further information regarding Wheeler Elementary School's Attendance Program, please contact your child's grade level counselor:

Jennifer Harada: Grade K-2
Taryn Kamaura: Grade 3-5



WHEELER ELEMENTARY

**Attendance Program
Incentives, Policy,
and Procedures**

School Year 2015-2016

The Wheeler Way

The mission of Wheeler Elementary School is to develop high student achievement, high self-esteem, and school pride.

To accomplish this mission, we place the utmost importance on attendance. Research shows that attendance is one of the highest predictors of educational success. There are legitimate reasons for absences but they are absences nonetheless and can impact a student's educational success in the short- and long-term.

Attendance Definitions

Absent – The student is not physically present in the assigned classroom for at least half of the school day except if the student is on an authorized school activity. For purposes of school reporting and funding, students are either present or absent regardless if it is “excused” or “unexcused.”

Tardy – The student reports to class after 7:55am and before half of the school day has passed, except if the student is on an authorized school activity.

Chronic absence/tardy – The student is not physically present in the assigned classroom or tardy to class for more than 10% of the school year (18 days or more).

Attendance Policy Procedures

Level 1 (First notification): Homeroom teacher will contact parent via phone call, communication log/planner, or letter to inquire about student absences and/or tardies after 2-5 instances in any quarter. A letter will also be sent home from the teacher.

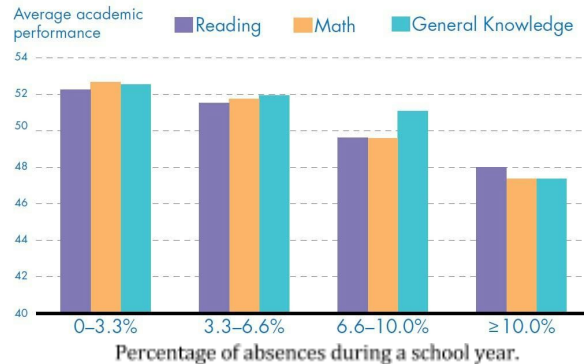
Level 2 (Second notification): Continued absences and/or tardies to school. Homeroom teacher will inform grade level counselor of continued absences/tardies. A second letter will be sent home by the counselor and noted by the Principal. Counselor will speak to student and parent/guardian regarding attendance and provide information on possible consequences and support. Parent/guardian may be asked to participate in developing an Attendance Action Plan and/or approve of counseling interventions. A home visit may be made by school staff.

Level 3 (Third notification): Continued absences and/or tardies to school. Homeroom teacher will inform grade level counselor of continued absences/tardies. Third letter will be sent home by the counselor and parent/guardian will be asked to attend a conference with administrators to discuss interventions for improving attendance. Parent/guardian and school staff will meet to develop or review Attendance Action Plan. School social worker will be notified of student’s attendance. Home visit will be made by school staff.

Level 4: Chronic absences and/or tardies to school. Homeroom teacher will inform grade level counselor of continued absences/tardies. Counselor will schedule a parent conference involving student, parent/guardian, school administration and school social worker to review Attendance Action Plan.

Level 5: Continued chronic absences and/or tardies to school. Petition for Education Neglect or Truancy may be filed with Family Court.

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Children will
do better in
school if they
are in class to
learn.”



Source: Hedy N. Chang, Mariajosé Romero, *Present, Engaged, and Accounted For, The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*, September 2008.

Wheeler Attendance Interventions

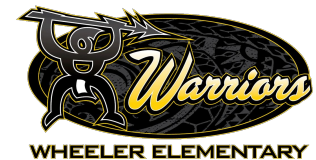
Attendance Action Plan

- An intervention plan to help improve attendance and tardies.
- Developed by parent/guardian, student, and school staff.
- Consists of agreements made by all stakeholders to actions in improving absences and/or tardies to school.

Types of counseling interventions

- Individual and/or Group Counseling
- Military School Liaison Office
- Home Visit(s)
- Assistance by School Based Behavioral Health Specialist, Tripler Team, or Military Family Life Consultant.

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**For any planned absences of 10 days or more, parents/guardians are required to withdraw students and re-enroll students upon return with the exception of student medical emergencies.