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## I. PURPOSE

School attendance is crucial to student achievement, and Athlos Academy's policy aims to encourage attendance by delineating the consequences of accumulated unexcused absences.

## II. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Truant:** A student who fails to comply with Athlos Academy's attendance policy, in accordance with the statewide compulsory attendance law.

## III. POLICY

- A. A **truant** student is absent from school without valid excuse for:
1. 3 days per semester if the child is in elementary school; or
  2. The first class periods on 3 days per semester if the child is in middle school.
- B. A **habitual truant** student is continuously absent from school without valid excuse and refuses to work with the school on his/her attendance problem for:
1. 5 or more days per semester if the child is in elementary school; or
  2. The first class periods on 5 or more days per semester if the child is in middle school.
- C. A **habitually tardy** student is one who is continuously late to school without valid excuse and refuses to work with the school on his/her attendance problem for:
1. 5 or more days per semester; or
  2. The first class periods on 5 or more days per semester if the child is in middle school.
- D. Athlos Academy will notify the student's parent/guardian(s) on or before the student's third unexcused absence or tardy and inform the parent/guardian(s) of the consequences by law, including:
1. On or prior to the third unexcused absence or tardy in a given semester, the Lead School Administrator shall notify the parent or legal guardian in writing and shall hold a conference with such student's parent or legal guardian. This notification shall include information relative to the parent or legal guardian's legal responsibility to enforce the student's attendance at school and the

civil penalties that may be incurred if the student is determined to be habitually absent or habitually tardy. The student's parent or legal guardian shall sign a receipt for such notification.

2. A meeting with the parent/guardian(s) and school administration shall be required in cases of truancy.
3. Strict attendance of the student, monitoring by the school, and/or suspension may be consequences.
4. Athlos Academy will demonstrate persistent efforts before referring the student to legal proceedings (i.e. juvenile court).
5. Parent/guardian(s) will be notified at all developments.

**Legal References:**

[LA. R.S. 17:221](#) (*school attendance*)

[LA. R.S. 17:233](#) (*cases of habitual absence or tardiness*)

**Related Documents:**

[Notice of Truancy](#)