

2023-2024 LHHS ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance provides students with the opportunities necessary to meet course goals and objectives. Many integral activities, including class discussions, laboratory experiments, field trips, and guest speakers, cannot be simulated or replicated with bookwork! Therefore, with the goal of promoting student success, Seminole County Public Schools has adopted a uniform High School Attendance Policy. It is our intent to encourage honest, accurate, and consistent adherence to this policy by all our students, parents, teachers, and administrators.

When students are testing, and they are marked absent, it should be corrected within 24 to 72 hours. A teacher's attendance means that student is not in class.

Lake Howell High School initiates the following communication for absences:

1. Automatic phone dialer calls the phone number of record each day of absence for designated periods.
2. Skyward Family Access is available to parents/guardians and Student Access is available to student.
3. Attendance Letter mailed to Skyward address on record with 5, 10 and 15 unexcused all-day absences.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT

Pursuant to Florida Statute 232.01, a high school student enrolled in Seminole County Public Schools who is under the age of 16 is required to attend school regularly during the entire term. Pursuant to Florida Statute 230.22(2), the School Board of Seminole County, Florida, has adopted a Compulsory Attendance Policy, File JEA, which states, "A student is expected to attend all school sessions unless excused by a proper school authority."

CLASS ATTENDANCE DEFINED

a. Tardiness: **For any class period, a student is tardy up to and including 10 minutes after the start of class.**

Any time a student arrives to class **after 10 minutes, the student is considered unexcused tardy (Y).**

b. Check out: **If a student is checked out for any reason and misses more than 10 minutes of a class, they will be considered leaving class early and marked with a Y.**

EXCUSED ABSENCE DOCUMENTATION

In requesting an absence to be **EXCUSED**, the student must provide the school's attendance office with documentation within ten (10) days of the absence indicating that one of the following has occurred:

<https://bit.ly/AttendanceNotes>

1. Medical treatment by a licensed physician*
2. Observation of a religious holiday
3. Law enforcement order or court subpoena
4. Death of a family member
5. Natural Disaster
6. Traffic accident that directly involved the student

***NOTE:** It is understood that on every occasion of sickness, a student will not require medical attention by a licensed health care professional. However, parent notes for short term, non-chronic illnesses will not be accepted. LHHS reserves the right to re-evaluate all excused absences when absences become excessive. Absences without written official documentation listing one of the above reasons will be considered unexcused. Parent notes will be accepted for 10 absences in a semester. Excessive absences can result in referral to the Student Study Team which includes district staff, school counselors, and the school social worker.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Absence from class for any reason other than those enumerated above shall be considered unexcused. Additionally, students absent from class for more than 10 minutes are considered absent for the entire period.

ATTENDANCE AND DENIAL OF CREDIT

Students who accumulate more than **nine (9) unexcused absences** in a class during a semester may be denied credit in that course. Loss of credit may interfere with the students' ability to graduate on time.

MAKE-UP FOR DENIED CREDIT

Make-up time can be done during a Saturday School session, which will be posted each semester. The Saturday School session runs from 8 am to noon in the school's media center. Students must be present the entire time and have schoolwork to complete during the session. School rules are expected to be followed during these sessions and any rule violation may result in dismissal from the session.

ATTENDANCE RELATED PROCEDURES

TO CHECK OUT

If a student is checked out during a class period and misses more than 10 minutes of that class, they will be considered ABSENT according to the 90% attendance requirement.

DRIVER'S LICENSE / ATTENDANCE POLICY

According to section 322.091 of Florida Statutes, a minor is not eligible for driving privileges unless that minor is enrolled in public school, nonpublic school, or home education, and satisfies relevant attendance requirements. All students attaining age 14 within the current school year, who accumulate 15 unexcused absences in a period of 90 calendar days, will be reported to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. DHSMV will submit notices to the student and parent informing them of the suspension of the student's license. The student and parent will have 15 calendar days from receipt of the notice to request a hardship waiver hearing before the Principal or his Designee. If a no waiver is filed, the student must attend school 30 days without an absence before the reinstatement process can be begin.

COLLEGE DAYS

Students are permitted a total of **TWO OFFICIAL COLLEGE VISITS** beginning their junior year. For a college visit to be excused the student must bring an official letter to the attendance office within 5 days of the visit.

HOMECOMING / PROM/ SPECIAL EVENTS INCENTIVE

Students wishing to attend Lake Howell High School's Homecoming or Prom events must be in good standing in their **ATTENDANCE, DISCIPLINE and STUDENT DEBT**. Any failure to meet the required standards may result in the loss of privilege in attending these events.