

Attendance Policy

Great Lakes Academy Board of Directors believes regular school attendance is essential to a quality education. According to Michigan School Code MCL 380.1561, "...every parent, guardian, or other person in this state having control and charge of a child from the age 6 through the child's 16th birthday, shall send that child to the public school during the entire school year. The child's attendance shall be continuous and consecutive for the school year fixed by the school district in which the child is enrolled." Frequent absences and/or tardiness in a class can seriously affect the student's progress and credit for that class. Attendance patterns of the student are the responsibility of the parent or guardian and the student. Continued violation of student attendance requirements can and will lead to a referral to Probation Office of the County in which the child resides.

Parents are their children's primary teachers and continue to mentor them along with their children's school. Parents should model behavior valued by our society; being prompt and on time is important. Children who are tardy delay or interrupt the start of the instructional day for everyone. As parents should expect of a school of excellence, Great Lakes Academy requires that teachers start on time. Please deliver your children on time ready to learn.

At Great Lakes Academy, parents must provide timely transportation for their children. It is essential that all children arrive at Great Lakes Academy in time for them to go to their classrooms and be ready for instruction which begins at 8:00 a.m. Parents should deliver their children before 7:55 a.m. in order for them to be seated and ready to learn by 8:00 a.m. As a courtesy, parents may deliver their children as early as 7:30 a.m. for breakfast.

The following attendance policy applies to all students and is set by Board Policy #5200:

- A. A student is tardy if he/she is not in his/her desk ready to learn at 8:00a.m.
- B. Three (3) tardies equals one absence.
- C. If the student is not in the classroom for any reason, excluding school sponsored field trips, that day counts as an absence.
 - If a students is absent due to a medical/health issue or a documented family emergency this will be an excused absence and the student will be able to make-up any missed assignment.
- D. Students will not be permitted to participate in after school athletic activities if they are absent from school the same day.
- E. A student with twenty (20) absences in a school year may not receive credit for the school year. The student will be required to repeat the grade if he/she accumulates over twenty (20) absences in a school year and academic performance is hindered.
- F. In the event that a student accumulates more than twenty (20) absences, review of all absences will be conducted by the Director or Designee. If all the absences

occurred for the documented medical benefit of the student or for documented bereavement benefit of the student, a waiver to the above policy may be approved by the Great Lakes Academy Director.

In addition to parents being notified when a student reaches 10, 15, and 20 days of absence, persistent absences from school may result in a referral to Probate Court and/or Department of Human Services (DHS) as a violation of the truancy law/educational neglect.

Truancy is defined as: "Willfully and repeatedly absenting oneself from school in violation of Michigan Juvenile Code 712A.2." Please note: Unless there are extenuating circumstances, a truancy petition will be filed once a student has been absent 20 days. The 20 days are inclusive of attendance within other school districts within the same academic year.

Frequent absences or tardiness in a class may seriously affect the student's progress and credit for the class. Attendance patterns of a student are the responsibility of the parent and the student.