

Attendance Policy

Our instructional day runs from 8:20am–3:05 pm.

The nature of collaborative projects and our educational model makes **daily attendance extremely important—virtual or in-person**. Peers will be working daily with classmates, checking in with Pros on curriculum, and keeping up with their advisories. Families should plan to schedule vacations or special programs in a way that does not conflict with regular school days or special activities.

*Note: In addition to the information provided here, **all questions regarding absences and attendance may be directed to our Attendance Manager, attendance@nexthighschool.org***

Significant absences, repeated unexcused absences, or excessive tardiness could lead to academic and disciplinary consequences through the South Carolina Department of Education. Appointments and other activities should be scheduled during non-school hours whenever possible.

This year, NEXT High School/NEXT Eagle Ridge will offer **Seat Time Recovery (STR)** for those students who are passing their classes yet slightly over in terms of days for attendance

State law requires Peers to be present 170 of the 180 days (85 of the 90 days of a semester) or they will be in danger of failing due to absences. Students and families will be issued a student intervention plan and *may* not be promoted on to the next grade due to absences/attendance.

If additional unexcused absences occur, the student may be considered **truant** and DSS will be contacted. If students have more than 10% of days absent whether excused or unexcused, they are considered **chronically absent** and their information will be sent to the State.

A Peer who is **absent for ten (10) consecutive school days or more**, whose parents do not provide the school with an explanation for the absences and whose parents do not indicate an intent to have their child remain in school, will be deemed to have **dropped from school enrollment on the 11th consecutive day**.

The maximum number of days that will be recorded as excused with parent notes is 5 days per semester. The only lawful absences are medical absences, bereavement (3 days) and principal approved absences.

Lawful Versus Unlawful Absences

While the Administrators of NEXT Schools reserve the right to make a final determination as to whether an absence is lawful or unlawful, in general, **lawful absences** are those for which the parent has submitted: a parent note (only the first 5), a medical note, a bereavement note or a principal approved absence. **Unlawful absences** are parent notes (over 5) and those for which there is no documentation or obvious necessity.

Early Dismissals

Peers cannot leave campus during the school day without prior written consent from their parents or guardians. We must have written documentation from a parent/guardian for early dismissals and this documentation must include contact information for the parent/guardian so that we can verify the dismissal. Emails from the parent email address on file will suffice as written documentation. NEXT Schools have the prerogative to call and verify emails or early dismissal at any time to ensure the safety of our students.

Parents/guardians must come inside the NEXT School facility to the main desk with their photo ID to check Peers out of school if the dismissal is prior to 3:05 (unless the Peer is a student driver). We ask that parents/guardians remain at the front desk until the Peer arrives and is released into parent/guardian custody.

Tardy Policy

Peers who arrive at school late or return to school from a midday appointment must **check in at the front desk and provide a note from a parent/guardian regarding the tardy** in order to be allowed to participate in the remainder of the school day. The parent note will not necessarily excuse the tardy, but is required to ensure that the parent was aware of the student's whereabouts when not in school. Doctor's notes will be accepted as excused absences, but may be verified by the school.