

VIRTUAL SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Absences for students enrolled in the Virtual Option courses shall be determined by the online attendance and time the student is working on the course rather than the student's physical presence at school.

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Excused and unexcused absences will be defined the same for virtual school students as for traditionally enrolled students. Excused and unexcused absences are described above under the headings: "Excused Absences" and "Unexcused Absences".

FSPS Virtual School Attendance Accounting

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- FSPS students who choose to participate in their instruction virtually from home will have attendance based on a demerit system. A student will be assigned a demerit if the following is observed:
 - A student demonstrates no effort or engagement with their daily virtual instruction.
 - Teachers will review the progress of their virtual students each Tuesday morning. Demerits for lack of attendance will be assigned based on the student's progress and effort from the previous week.
 - If a student has done poorly on assignments from the previous week but has shown attempts to complete the tasks, no attendance demerits will be assigned.
 - If a student has done poorly on assignments but attended small group sessions online, no attendance demerits will be given.
 - If a student has completed all tasks satisfactorily but has not attended small group sessions, no demerits will be assigned.
 - A student fails to participate in core class instruction meetings done online.
 - A student fails to participate in any small group meetings done online. However, if a student shows mastery of assignments and assessments but does not attend small group meetings, no demerit will be assigned.
 - A student fails to complete any assigned assessments, whether teacher or district required.
 - If a student earns 2 demerits, then the student is marked absent for the entire week corresponding to the demerits. Principals have the discretion to change these absences at a later date, if warranted.
- For clarification, an excused absence would be an absence where communication has been made by the parent to the school to provide documentation for the student's absences (sick, doctor/dentist appointments..., etc.)
 - The school will address the lack of attendance in the following manner:

- When a student accumulates one or two demerits in one week, the virtual student's classroom teacher calls/emails to check on the student.
- When the student accumulates three demerits, the virtual student's classroom teacher attempts another phone call home.
 - When the student accumulates five demerits, the virtual student's teacher alerts the principal and school counselor. The building principal, or their designee, calls home.
 - When the student accumulates seven demerits, district representative(s) will make a home visit. Regardless of whether the home visit personnel successfully talks to the student's parent or guardian, a certified letter is sent to the home. Students who continue to collect attendance demerits will be dropped from virtual instruction and reinstated in physical classes. If the student does not return to physical classes by the 3rd day after the certified letter was delivered, the school will file a FINS based on failure to comply with the compulsory attendance statute.
- Building/district administrators have the authority to modify these procedures due to extenuating circumstances.
- Demerits do not have to be assigned consecutively for school action to take place. However, attendance demerits will be reset to zero at the beginning of each semester.