

RIVERTON HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY

At Riverton High School we, the participants and patrons, exemplify an environment of mutual respect and cooperation, a commitment to excellence in all endeavors, and the encouragement of positive character traits. The Jordan School District requires that all children achieve mastery in the basic skills, and any absence from school interferes with the child's opportunity to master these skills. In an effort to increase student success, to prepare students for attendance expectations in their future careers, and to exemplify our commitment to excellence, Riverton High School has established the following attendance policy.

Riverton High School is committed to academic excellence and understands that learning is increased with consistent attendance. In accordance to Jordan School District Policy AA432, this attendance policy states the responsibilities of Riverton High School teachers, students, and parent/guardians regarding school attendance, defines absences and tardies, specifies loss of credit due to absences and tardies, and outlines attendance school make-up procedures to reinstate credit.

ATTENDANCE POLICY GOALS

Riverton High School's attendance policy will help students accomplish the following goals:

- Develop student responsibility
- Develop quality citizenship
- Increase respect for teachers, other students, and learning
- Achieve success in their courses
- Prepare for future employment

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Role of the Student

- The student shall gain the most of their educational experience by regularly attending and being on time to all classes.
- Students shall be present in assigned or designated areas at all times.
- Students shall follow proper check-in/check-out procedures.
- Students shall obtain make-up assignments from the teacher due to absences and shall turn them in according to arrangements made with the teacher.

The Role of the Teacher

- Teachers shall keep an accurate roll of all absences and tardies.
- Teachers shall emphasize the importance of punctuality by beginning class promptly with meaningful instruction.
- Teachers shall discuss attendance issues with students as they arise and inform the school administration if attendance does not improve.

The Role of the Parent/Guardian

- Parents/guardians should avoid interruptions of the academic year and plan medical appointments and vacations at times that will not require students to be out of school.
- Parents/guardians will show support regarding district policies and state law by expecting regular school attendance for student success.
- Parents/guardians shall contact the attendance office and notify the school of student's absence, in the case of illness or other legitimate reasons for absences, within five (5) days of the absence.
- The role of the parent/guardian is further summarized by the following:

Utah Compulsory Attendance Law [53A-11-101] requires every school age child to be in school. Parents/guardians are responsible for their children's regular school attendance and may be charged with a misdemeanor if they fail to ensure their student's regular attendance. Parents/guardians are responsible for notifying the school when an absence occurs within five school days of the absence.

The Role of the Administration

- The administration shall enforce and uphold Utah State Compulsory Education law that may include a referral to juvenile court for excessive absenteeism.
- The administration shall identify students with attendance issues and work cooperatively with parents/guardians and students to improve attendance.
- The administration shall maintain an earnest and persistent effort to improve student attendance.

The Role of the Attendance Office

- The attendance office shall keep administrators and parents/guardians informed of attendance problems.
- The attendance office shall notify parents/guardians of excessive absenteeism by phone message, calling machine, or letter.
- The attendance office shall review attendance daily and resolve discrepancies in student attendance records.
- The attendance office shall provide check-in /check-out slips upon authorization by phone or in person by a student's parent/guardian.

ATTENDANCE

To earn credit, a student must be in class a minimum of 90% of the days of the quarter (20 of approximately 23 possible class periods per quarter). If a student has four (4) or more excused absences(s) or three (3) or more tardies per class per quarter that are not made-up, the student will receive no grade (NG) for the quarter grade in that class. **All absences and tardies that are not made-up will result in no grade for the quarter grade in that class.**

Parents/guardians may excuse up to three (3) absences per class per quarter where a valid excuse for an absence exists. Absences must be excused within 5 days of the absence. Excused absences in excess of three must be "made-up" at attendance school in order to receive credit.

All unexcused absences and trancies must be made up at attendance school in order to avoid loss of course credit.

Students who have not met the attendance requirement but have received a passing grade will receive “no grade” (NG) if the excessive absences/tardies are not made up or excused through the review process. NG is not available to students who failed academically; those students will receive an F grade regardless of their attendance. An (NG) differs from an F in that NG does not figure into the student’s overall GPA. However, both NG and F result in loss of credit. For athletic eligibility purposes, student government, and other programs that have a minimum GPA requirement, NG is counted as a failing grade.

- Students released from their regular classes in order to participate in school approved, extra-curricular activities are not considered absent.
- Absences due to suspensions or confinement in county detention do not need to be made up. However assignments from each class must be made up according to individual teachers’ disclosures.
- The “make-up” of excessive absences or tardies in attendance school does not excuse students from completing the class work and assignments missed during the absences(s). Make-up of the missed work is subject to requirements outlined in individual teachers’ disclosures.
- Excessive absences may also result in suspension, and/or referral to Jordan School District Truancy School and Juvenile Court for non-compliance with Utah Compulsory Education Law (Utah Code 53A-11-101).

EDUCATIONAL/VACATION LEAVE

Jordan School District allows students to make application to an administrator to miss up to ten school days of each year for prior-approved education/vacation release. These prior-approved release days will not contribute to the accumulated total of absences. Forms are available in the attendance office and must be picked up at least two days prior to the absence. **Students may take no more than ten (10) prior-approved education/vacation release absences per year without having to complete make-up sessions.** On the block schedule, an education/vacation leave absence of ten (10) consecutive days equates to five (5) absences in each class (five A-day absences and five B-day absences).

ACCESS

Riverton High School provides computerized attendance information updated daily to assist parents/guardians and students. Students and parents/guardians may check class grades and attendance records through Skyward. A link is provided at www.rivertonhigh.com. In addition, parent/guardians may check attendance by calling 256-5810 between 7:00 a.m. and 2:45 p.m.

ATTENDANCE SCHOOL AND AVOIDING LOSS OF CREDIT

On the fourth excused absence or third tardy and every subsequent absence or tardy per class, per quarter, students will be required to complete a session of attendance school to make up the missing class time. A student must attend a session for absences that are **not** represented by the following codes: C, E, D, H, N, S and V, J, K, X, Y, (refer to chart for code definitions). **All truancies and unexcused absences must be made up by completing attendance school.**

Attendance school sessions will be offered before school on designated days with some Saturday sessions available. **All absences or tardies that occur during the first half of the quarter must be made up before mid-term. All absences and tardies that occur after mid-term must be made up by the end of the quarter.** Students will be required to attend double time for any attendance school past the deadline. *To avoid any problems it is strongly suggested that the student make up the time within two (2) weeks of the occurrence.* Absences occurring during the last week of the quarter must be made up during the first week of the following quarter. An attendance school schedule will be available from the attendance office. Students must sign up for attendance school by purchasing tickets in the main office.

No food, drink, electronic device or any other disruptive items will be permitted in the attendance session area. Riverton High School rules including the dress code will be enforced in each session. Sessions will start promptly. Students arriving late will lose the opportunity to attend the session. A student that is disruptive, as determined by the teacher, during attendance school will be removed from that sitting of attendance school and will forfeit the money and time for that session. **Failure to make up absences or tardies will result in no grade for the class.**

Attendance School Ticket Prices		
Offense	Time	Cost
One Tardy, Check In/Out	30 minutes	\$2.00
One Absence	60 minutes	\$3.00

TEACHER MAKE-UP

Teachers who desire to do so may allow students the opportunity to make up absences by attending special make-up sessions in their own classes. Teacher initiated make-up hours are allowed only for the class of the teacher providing make-up; hours are not transferable to another teacher. **The assigned work must be academic in nature** (no service work). The student purchases and brings the Attendance School ticket to the teacher. The teacher turns in the record of completion to the Attendance Office. Teachers setting up their own make-up sessions are not paid for the time spent supervising the tutoring.

*Make-up hours required for absences and tardies in these individual teacher sessions are the same as outlined for make-up in Attendance School.

ABSENCE REVIEW PROCESS

Students and their parents/guardians may appeal to the Absence Review Committee to waive or reduce the make-up requirement for absences in excess of the three allowed per class per quarter. *Reviews are reserved for uncontrollable attendance issues*, i.e., physician-verifiable illness, bereavement, court appearances, verified emergencies, etc. The waiving of a student's attendance obligations through the absence review process is infrequent. In the case of chronic, pre-existing, or extended unforeseen health conditions, an assistant principal can waive the review process and excuse absences. This requires that the student or parent/guardian be in regular contact with their assistant principal.

To be considered, reviewed absences must meet the following criteria:

- Absences must have been parent/guardian-excused (indicating parent/guardian knowledge of the absences and appropriate school notification) within five (5) school days of the student's return to school.
- Verification by a physician may be required for absences due to illness, where absences are excessive. The excuse must be date specific.
- An explanation of why the absences are being appealed must be verified by a parent.

Absence review submission deadline schedules and absence review forms will be available in the attendance office. The review forms must be signed by a parent. The Absence Review Committee will not rule favorably on the following: verified trancies, leaving school without checking out properly; unverified illness where absence is excessive; educational leave taken without prior approval; chronic tardiness; or absences not excused by a parent/guardian at the time of the absence or within five (5) school days of the student's return to school.

Check In/Check Out

Once a student has been to school and needs to leave for any reason, it is imperative that the student checks out through the attendance office. All checkouts must be confirmed directly with parent/guardian contact by telephone or in person at the time of checkout or prior to checkout. A parent/guardian should contact the attendance office early in the day to arrange a student's checkout. Computer generated check out slips will be available for students to pick up in the attendance office between his/her first hour class break. Students are required to pick up the checkout slips from the attendance office during a class break.

Students leaving school without following proper checkout procedure will be considered truant. First and fifth period students arriving within the first 10 minutes of class must go directly to their class. The first hour teachers record the attendance. If students enter campus after first hour classes or more than 10 minutes late, they must check-in through the attendance office. They will be given a check-in slip with the date, time, and reason for the check-in to be given to the current teacher. The codes of O (check out) and I (check in) will count as half an absence. These codes will be made up in attendance school. It will be the same penalty as a T (tardy), 30 minutes and \$2.00 each when over the limit.

ATTENDANCE DEFINITIONS

A student is considered absent from school or from a class any time he/she is not present. School activities and assemblies that are scheduled during school time between 7:30 a.m. and 2:25 p.m. are considered part of the regular school day. Students are required to be at the activity or in a school supervised alternate area during that time. If a student needs to leave school for any reason during the school day, he/she is required to check out through the attendance office using proper check out procedure. (See Check In/Check Out)

Unexcused absence: *Student is absent and (1) the school receives no information explaining the absence or (2) the reason given for the absence is one that is not accepted by the school, truancy court, or state law as a valid excuse for missing school, i.e. going out to lunch, skiing, sleeping in, babysitting, shopping, etc. Students who come to class after the (10) minute tardy period are marked way late.*

Excused absence: *The absence is excused when the parent/guardian has notified the school of an illness. Physician or dental appointment, bereavement, court appearance, or, in rare cases a family emergency or special religious observance. In cases where absences become excessive, the administration may require a physician note to verify illness.*

Tardy: *The student comes to class late up to ten (10) minutes after the bell rings. A student is tardy when he/she is not sitting at the desk ready to work when the bell rings, as determined by the teacher.*

Make-up absence or tardy: *The student attended Attendance School for the prescribed amount of time to help make up for time and instruction lost due to an absence or tardy.*

Truancy: *Either parents/guardians or the school are not aware of the student's absence or the student did not follow proper checkout procedure. Parents/guardians, police, or school personnel verified the student's absence as truancy.*

Excessive Absences: *Twenty (20) or more class absences per quarter (cumulative across all classes) or five (5) or more absences in any one class. The state indicates that excessive absences are one or more missed classes per week for traditional school, with each class being held every day.*

Activity Absences: *Students participating in activities that do not involve the entire student body will be excused by an administratively approved Activity Release form. Students are not penalized for the absence, but must make-up assigned work per teacher's disclosure statement. If a student begins to accumulate excessive activity absences, the teacher should submit a referral to the appropriate assistant principal.*

Suspensions: *The suspended student is counted present on attendance records and cannot be penalized for nonattendance on days of suspension. Make-up work must be provided for suspended students. Work must be completed within the time requirements of the individual teacher.*

Attendance Code Definitions

<i>Code</i>	<i>Explanation</i>	<i>Definition</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>The student was absent and the school was not notified by parent/guardian.</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>Absence Made-up</i>	<i>The student attended make-up school for the absence.</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Check In/Out</i>	<i>The student checked-in and out during the same period with a valid excuse from parent/guardian.</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>In school suspension</i>	<i>Student is placed in a detention at the school and is in attendance.</i>
<i>E</i>	<i>Verified Excused Absence</i>	<i>The student was absent and considered excused because of doctor or court note.</i>
<i>F</i>	<i>Absence Waived</i>	<i>Attendance record changed/Approved by appeals committee</i>
<i>G</i>	<i>Guardian Knowledge</i>	<i>Parent/Guardian notifies the attendance office of absence by phone or in person.</i>
<i>H</i>	<i>Home & Hospital</i>	<i>Sick 10 days or more with appropriate paperwork completed.</i>
<i>I</i>	<i>Check In</i>	<i>Student checks in to school.</i>
<i>J</i>	<i>Testing/Counselor</i>	<i>Student is in a school sponsored testing situation.</i>
<i>K</i>	<i>Detention/Crisis Center</i>	<i>Student is in a court detention setting.</i>
<i>L</i>	<i>Tardy made-up</i>	<i>Student attended make-up class to make up tardy.</i>
<i>N</i>	<i>School Activity</i>	<i>The student is out of class due to a school sponsored activity.</i>
<i>O</i>	<i>Check Out</i>	<i>Parent/guardian checked out, through the attendance office, prior to the student leaving campus.</i>
<i>R</i>	<i>Truancy Made-Up</i>	<i>The student attended make-up school for the truancy.</i>
<i>S</i>	<i>Suspension</i>	<i>The student has been removed from school setting for disciplinary reasons.</i>
<i>T</i>	<i>Tardy</i>	<i>Up to 10 minutes late to class.</i>
<i>U</i>	<i>Unexcused Check In</i>	<i>The student checks in without parental knowledge or verification.</i>
<i>V</i>	<i>Vacation/Education leave</i>	<i>The student is absent due to a prearranged vacation or educational leave. (10 days max per year)</i>
<i>W</i>	<i>Way Late</i>	<i>More than 10 minutes late to class.</i>
<i>X</i>	<i>Counselor Conference</i>	<i>The student has been meeting with their counselor.</i>
<i>Y</i>	<i>Administrative Conference</i>	<i>The student has been meeting with their administrator.</i>
<i>Z</i>	<i>Truant</i>	<i>Verified Truancy.</i>

RIVERTON HIGH SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE POLICY

We are now four years into our attendance policy and we have seen an increase in daily attendance, reduction of tardies, reduction in discipline, and an increased awareness by students and parents regarding the importance of being in class. We applaud your efforts in tracking your attendance and striving for excellence in the classroom.

We would like to highlight a few recent changes in the attendance policy. We have tried to be responsive but firm regarding the policy. When a student checks in or out of class it has previously counted as a full absence. In response to students and parents, we are now going to count a check in/out as HALF an absence. Previously, three guardian excused absences and one check in/out would require attendance school. Now there can be three guardian excused absences and TWO check in/out before attendance school will be required. This will allow students and parents increased flexibility when having to arrange busy schedules for appointments or other events that may arise. When making up check in/out in attendance school, thirty minutes and a \$2.00 charge per session will be required.

Because too many students do not take care of attendance school issues in a timely manner, we are now requiring all students who do not make up the attendance school by the established deadline during the current quarter to go to DOUBLE TIME attendance school. The absence is still able to be made up past the deadline; however students will need to attend two sessions as an added penalty for not taking care of the absence before the dead line. **Double time will only be allowed for the PREVIOUS quarter.** When making up anything other than the previous quarter, the only option will be packets for make-up credit.

We would like to remind all parents and students of the policy for calling in to excuse an absence. Parents must call within five days of the absence to excuse it. RHS will be close to 2000 students this fall and the five day rule helps our secretaries and staff keep better track of students.

The complete policy is available online as well as in the student handbook given to each student at the beginning of the school year. We encourage all parents and students to take a minute and read it to become familiar with the policy and attendance codes. Parents and students may view current attendance on Skyward. There is a link on our website at www.rivertonhigh.com.

Thank you to all for your hard work and dedication. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to work with your students and know that if we work together we will have a great year.