

I. PURPOSE

School attendance is crucial to student achievement, and Athlos Academy's policy aims to encourage attendance by delineating the consequences of accumulated unexcused absences.

II. POLICY

- A. After the 3 accumulated unexcused absences in a school year, a student's parent or guardian will be notified by certified mail that his or her child is nearing the total of unexcused absences allowed by the county.
- B. After such notification, the student or his or her parent or guardian may, within a reasonable time, request a conference with school officials regarding the student's absences and the prescribed discipline.
 1. The notification will state that the school strongly urges the student's parent or guardian to request such a conference if needed.
- C. In accordance with Minnesota Statute, if there continues to be unexcused absences, the school shall report to parents/ guardians and county when the total number of unexcused absences reaches truant levels.
 1. If the child is 11 years old and under, the student will be referred to the appropriate county for possible educational child neglect.
 2. Students age 12 and over will be referred for possible truancy.
 3. The respective counties will correspond with families as outlined below:
 - a. Sherburne: Initial Truancy letter: 3 unexcused.
 - b. Stearns: Initial Truancy letter: 5 unexcused
 - c. Benton: Initial Truancy letter: 7 unexcused.
 4. Unexcused absences following referrals to the county will be documented and recorded by the School Officials.
 5. These documents will be issued to the county which may be followed by additional meetings and/ or court hearings.
- D. In cases of recurring unexcused absences, the administration may also request the county attorney to file a petition with the juvenile court, pursuant to Minnesota statutes.