

Book	Policy Manual
Section	430 - Students: Student Attendance
Title	Grade Reduction/Retention Consequences for Unlawful Absences
Number	430.05
Status	Active
Legal	Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §4-108, §4-205, §7-301; COMAR 13A.08.01.02 & 13A.08.01.05; and MD. Education Code Ann. § 7-302.2 (2021)
Adopted	June 11, 2003
Last Revised	August 18, 2022
Last Reviewed	August 18, 2022

As defined in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article § 7-302.2 (2021),

(a) In this section, “truant student” means a student:

- (1) Who is unlawfully absent from school for more than:
  - (i) 8 days in any quarter;
  - (ii) 15 days in any semester; or
  - (iii) 20 days in a school year; and
- (2) Whose absences for purposes of item (1) of this subsection are unlawful absences as defined by regulation.

#### **In Grades 9 through 12:**

Students who accumulate more than fifteen (15) days of unlawful absences in a semester course or more than twenty (20) days of unlawful absences in a year-long course will receive a failing grade in that course. Each school shall develop and implement attendance improvement strategies to address chronic absenteeism. A Multitiered Systems of Support meeting should be utilized to create a plan, recommend interventions and/or monitor student progress.

#### **In Grades 6-8:**

Students who accumulate more than fifteen (15) days of unlawful absences in a semester course or more than twenty (20) days of unlawful absences in a year-long course may receive a failing grade in that course. Each school shall develop and implement attendance improvement strategies to address chronic absenteeism. A Multitiered Systems of Support meeting should be utilized to create a plan, recommend interventions and/or monitor student progress.

#### **In Grades 1-5:**

Each elementary school shall develop and implement attendance improvement strategies to address chronic absenteeism. The Student Services Team should be utilized to create a plan, recommend an intervention and/or monitor student progress. Please refer to page 49 of the Code of Conduct for the retention procedure.