

Sec. 1. ATTENDANCE FOR CREDIT

Except as provided below and in accordance with Chapel Hill Academy’s Charter, a student shall not be given credit or a final grade for a class unless the student is in attendance 90% of the days the class is offered. This restriction does not affect a student’s right to excused absences to observe religious holy days.

This attendance requirement includes both excused and unexcused absences. A student who attends fewer than 90% percent of the days the class is offered may be referred to the Attendance Review Committee (“Committee”) to determine whether the absences were due to extenuating circumstances and how the student may regain credit or earn a final grade.

Sec. 2. ATTENDANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Board shall appoint one or more Committees to hear petitions for class credit by students who have not met the 90% rule to determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit, if appropriate.

a) *Extenuating Circumstances*

In determining whether there were extenuating circumstances for the absences, the Committee will use the following guidelines:

1. All absences will be considered in determining whether a student has attended the required percentage of days.
2. If makeup work is completed, absences for the reasons listed at Board Policy PG-3.5 (Compulsory Attendance) will be considered days of attendance for this purpose.
3. A transfer or migrant student begins to accumulate absences only after he or she has enrolled in Chapel Hill Academy.
4. For a student transferring into Chapel Hill Academy after school begins, only those absences after enrollment will be considered.
5. In reaching a decision about the student’s absences, the Committee will attempt to ensure that it is in the best interest of the student.
6. The Committee will consider the acceptability and authenticity of documented reasons for the student’s absences.
7. The Committee will consider whether the absences were for reasons over which the student or the student’s parent could exercise any control.
8. The Committee will consider the extent to which the student has completed all assignments, mastered the essential knowledge and skills, and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.
9. The student, parent will be given an opportunity to present any information to the Committee about the absences and to talk about ways to earn or regain credit.

b) *Conditions for Awarding Credit or a Final Grade*

The Committee may utilize any of the following conditions for regaining credit or earning a final grade for students with excessive absences:

1. Attending summer school.
2. Attending tutorial sessions, including Saturday school or before- or after-school programs.
3. Completing additional assignments, as determined by the Committee or teacher.
4. Maintaining attendance standards for the remainder of the semester.
5. Taking an examination to earn credit.

A student must earn a passing grade in order to receive credit or earn a passing grade.

c) *Appeal*

The student or parent may appeal the Committee's decision to the Board by filing a written request with the Superintendent in accordance with the Formal Complaint Process as outlined in the Student/Family Handbook.

Sec. 3. WITHDRAWAL FOR NONATTENDANCE

Chapel Hill Academy may initiate withdrawal of a student for nonattendance under the following conditions:

1. The student has been absent on ten or more consecutive school days; and
2. Repeated efforts by the attendance officer and/or Principal to locate the student have been unsuccessful.

To avoid uncertainty, prior to a withdrawal under this provision the attendance officer and/or Principal or designee shall attempt a home visit and other repeated efforts to locate the student.

Chapel Hill Academy may take disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, for excessive absenteeism but shall do so as prescribed in the Student Code of Conduct and provide due process through an expulsion process prior to any withdrawal.