

Tac Titooqan Article **January 2015**

Please take a moment to review the following attendance policy changes approved by the Lapwai School District Board of Trustees on December 15, 2014:

Thank you for your partnership in ensuring regular and punctual attendance. Not only do absent students miss valuable learning, average daily attendance drives our funding. Despite early release each Friday, these days will remain crucial to your child's education. Absences on Fridays will not only impact our funding, these students will be at a disadvantage and behind in their learning. Please join us in this effort to ensure all students reach their full potential.

The Lapwai School District has partnered with Nez Perce Tribe Prosecution to form a District Attendance Court. The court will begin meeting with the families of truant students in January. The purpose of the Lapwai School District Attendance Court is to surround families with support and resources to ensure regular and punctual attendance.

Idaho state law and the Nez Perce Tribal code require attendance at school. Students who do not comply with this regulation may be subject to school discipline and/or court action and referral to Child Protective Services including:

1. When a student has three (3) absences in a semester, a letter will be sent home. The letter will include the number of school days missed.
2. When a student reaches five (5) days of absences in a month or six (6) days of absences in a semester, the principal will notify the superintendent. The principal will contact the parent/guardian to develop a plan to assure regular attendance to minimize further absences and explain policies for attendance.
3. If attendance fails to immediately improve, the superintendent may contact the parent/guardian to arrange a referral to the Lapwai School District Attendance Court.
4. If such action is not successful, the student and/or parent may be charged with a violation of the Truancy Code in the appropriate jurisdiction.
5. When a student has missed ten (10) days in a semester, the student may be referred to Child Protective Services for educational neglect.
6. Exclusive of school-scheduled activities, a student may only miss twelve (12) days per semester. Failure to meet this standard will result in "no credit" or "withdrawal" on the student transcript.
7. If the above efforts fail to improve attendance, the principal will refer the student to the superintendent. After reviewing the student's attendance record, the superintendent may arrange a hearing before the Board of Trustees in accordance with Idaho Code 33-205, Denial of School Attendance, for habitual truancy. This hearing may lead to an expulsion for one calendar year, 365 days.

It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to ensure students attend school regularly and on time, yet please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide support. If you have questions regarding the policy changes described above, please contact Dr. David M. Aiken, superintendent, at 843-2622 ext 202. Together, we ensure all students will reach their full potential.