

Consequences

A student that is tardy:

1. Misses important instructional/educational time with the teacher and the class.
2. May earn lower grades, or fail, due to missing the instructional/educational time with the teacher and the class.
3. May be requested to remain after school to make up the time missed.
4. May be referred to the Department of Student Services at the Cullman City Schools Central Office.
5. May be referred to Child Protective Services for parent neglect.
6. May be referred to the Juvenile Probation Office for truancy.

**CHARACTER
CITIZENSHIP
SCHOLARSHIP**



CULLMAN HIGH SCHOOL

**INSPIRING STUDENTS
FOR LIFELONG
SUCCESS**

TARDIES CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR EVERYONE

**A Guide for Students
and Parents**



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Tardies Cause Problems for Everyone

When a student is tardy to school, or to a class, it creates many difficulties for the teacher(s), the other students, the office staff, the administration, the parents and the student.

FIRST It is unfair to the **teacher**. The teacher must stop the instruction of the other students in order to enter the tardy student. This creates a class disturbance for the teacher, and the students who were on time and prepared for class. The teacher must correct the class attendance record. The teacher attempts to “catch the late student up” with the class, and then attempts to return all the students to the point in the instructions where the class was when it was interrupted by the late student. Continuity of instruction is extremely important for the students. It can, and usually does, take several minutes to “get the class back on track.” This is important instructional time that is lost.

SECOND It is unfair to the **students** who were on time and prepared for class. This is a disturbance to them. Tardy students cause instructional time to be taken away from on-time students.

THIRD It is unfair to the **secretaries** in the office. They must write a tardy excuse for the late student to enter class, and then correct the attendance records. This takes away important time the secretaries need to accomplish their responsibilities.

FOURTH It is unfair to the **administration**. In most buildings an administrator will visit with the student to determine why the student is tardy. This is an effort to help the student understand the importance of being on time. If the tardies continue, the administrator must spend more and more precious time in dealing with the tardy problem. This takes time that should be used in working with students, parents and teachers on “positive” educational matters.

FIFTH It is unfair to the **student** who is tardy. The tardy student misses very important instruction that usually **cannot** be duplicated. By missing this instruction, the student’s basic skill level may drop and even lead to a failure in a particular class, or classes.

SIXTH It is unfair to the **parents**. When a student is tardy, some schools notify the parents that day. Most schools allow students to accumulate several tardies before they contact the parents. Contacting parents can cause a disruption in their daily routine which is unnecessary if the student would be on time. Further disruptions for parents can occur if the tardies continue. For example: parent/student, administrator and teacher conference at school; parent/student, school administrator conference with an administrator in the Department of Student Services at the Cullman City Schools Central Office at 301 First Street NE; and perhaps, a referral to Juvenile Probation could occur and would cause more disruptions for the parents.

The policy of Cullman City Schools is that a student shall be considered tardy if they are not in their assigned classroom when the tardy bell rings unless excused by authorized personnel. Some classroom teachers expect students to be in their assigned seats when the tardy bell rings. This is permissible under the Responsibilities of Students, Section VI.



All this can happen just because a student is tardy to school, to class or to several classes. By working together, we hope tardies will be prevented.