Welcome to Central Elementary School. Whether you are a returning "Bullpup" or a newcomer to our school, we want you to know we are excited about the chance to learn together. Our school vision statement is "Excellence Without Excuses!" In our school we also believe in, and practice, "Respect". We respect ourselves, others, and our school. We believe that every individual adds to our educational experience and we are glad you are a "Bullpup"!!!

# **CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DAILY SCHEDULE**

7:45 a.m. – 8:00	***	Read and Study
8:00 a.m.	***	Breakfast in the Classroom
8:15 a.m.	***	Class Begins
11:30 a.m 11:50	***	Lunch- 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup>
12:00 p.m12:20	***	Lunch- 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup>
3:20 p.m.	***	Dismissal

For the safety of your student please have them arrive after 7:45 a.m. and go home immediately after school. If at any time you need to make other arrangements, please come by the office.

Classes at Central School are dismissed at 3:20. Your child needs to attend the full day, every day. If at some time you must pick up your student early, we appreciate no pickups between 3:10 and 3:20 p.m. Your cooperation will help keep dismissal organized, orderly, and safe.



Important learning occurs every minute of every day in your student's classroom. Attendance is not only mandatory, it is key to your student's academic success. As parents you are responsible for having your student in class, on time, every day. The following is the newly adopted attendance policy for the Artesia Public Schools.

### STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

### Attendance Policy/Tardy Policy

### Types of Absences

**Definition of an Absence** – When a secondary student ( $6^{th}$ - $12^{th}$  grade) misses more than fifteen (15) minutes of any class period. When an elementary student (K- $5^{th}$  grade) checks in to school and misses more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the instructional time in any morning or afternoon session ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours) they will be deemed absent for that session.

**Excused Absences** – Absences *with parent notification* to the school that their child will be absent including, but not limited to the following: personal illness, professional appointments that could not be scheduled outside school time, or serious personal and or family problems. Excused absences will not count toward no credit status.

**Excessive Excused Absences**—Student success is largely determined by students being present in class to learn the subject matter and master the standards. If the principal determines that a parent/guardian is calling to excuse his/her student's absences excessively (i. e. 10 or more per semester), the principal will require that a conference be held and that a contract be signed which states further student absences without an excuse from a health-care provider could be determined to be unexcused.

**Unexcused Absences** - Absences without parent notification defined but not limited to the following: personal illness, professional appointments and in-school violations that result in suspension from school. Five (5) unexcused tardies also constitute an unexcused absence. Unexcused Absences will count toward no credit status (secondary) or retention status (elementary).

Official Absences - Absences which are school related including, but not limited to: athletic contests, music contests, DECA, county fair, and sanctioned 4H and rodeo activities. Participation in "official" activities are not recorded as school absences and are not recorded toward no-credit status. A student must meet the eligibility requirements of the New Mexico Activities Association for an "official absence" to be granted.

**Medical Doctor Excused Absences** - Absences with written doctor notification to the school that the student was absent due to a medical appointment or a medical condition of which the student was under a

doctor's care. Doctor excused absences do not count toward no-credit status (secondary) or retention status (elementary).

**Court Subpoena Absences** - Absences which require a student to be present in a court of law. Court subpoena absences do not count toward no-credit status (secondary) or retention status (elementary).

**Out-of-School Suspension** - Absences which are levied by the school administrator primarily for disciplinary reasons. A student that has been suspended from school for any reason will receive a grade of 0 for each day of suspension. *Out-of-school suspension will count toward no credit status*.

#### When Absent from School

State law mandates that children be in attendance during the period when school is in session. Therefore, when a student is absent, the parent shall call the school on or before the day of the absence in order to advise the school as to the reason for the absence if a telephone is available. If a parent does not have access to a phone, either at home or at work, a note will be accepted for verification purposes. (Notification to the office must be made within one business day after the absence.) All absences not verified by parental or administrative authorization, within one business day, will be considered unexcused. For absences greater than one (1) day in length, the school should be notified each day of the absence. (Principal has the authority to consider circumstances which have merit, when considering the waiver of unexcused absences.)

If a student is absent for three (3) or more successive school days, the school shall contact the student's parents, legal guardian or custodian by telephone. The school will contact the parent (if possible) no later than the close of school on the school day next succeeding the three (3)-day period. A written notice shall be dispatched if telephone contact has not been made. The provisions of this section do not apply to any absence if the parent, legal guardian or custodian, prior to the end of the three (3)-day period, has contacted the school to explain the absence prior to the end of the three (3)-day period.

All personnel will solicit cooperation from parents in the matter of school attendance and punctuality, particularly in regard to the scheduling of medical and dental appointments after school hours except in cases of emergency and the scheduling of family vacations during school vacation and recess periods.

#### Procedures for Notifying Parents of Student Absences

After the third (3rd), fifth (5th) and (10th) unexcused absence during the current semester; parents will be notified by a form letter stating the number of the student's absences.

When a secondary student (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) receives their eleventh (11th) unexcused absence in any one (1) class, the student will be placed on no-credit status and the parent will be notified by telephone and/or a form letter stating the number of the student's absences and the appeals procedure.

When an elementary student (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade) receives their eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) absence in a semester, the student will be placed on monitor status for possible retention in the current grade and the parent will be notified by telephone and/or a form letter stating the number of the student's absences and the procedures for retention.

### Secondary (6th-12th grade) "No Credit" Status

The Compulsory School Attendance Law and the Artesia Public Schools Board of Education prohibit unexcused absences. On the eleventh (11th) unexcused absence in any one (1) class, the student will be immediately placed on "no credit" ("NC") status for that class period. The student will not earn any credit and will receive a grade of "NC" for that class. A parent/guardian will be notified by letter or phone that his/her student is on no credit status for the semester. If the student obtains eleven (11) unexcused absences in all of his/her classes, the student will be on "no credit" status for the entire school day. The student will not earn any credits and will receive a grade of "NC" for all of his/her classes for that semester.

Absences which are not considered toward "no credit" status are as follows: 1) Medical Doctor Excused Absences, 2) Official Absences, 3) Court Subpoenaed Absences, 4) Excused Absences by parent notification (written or verbal within one business day after the absence), and Homebound Absences.

#### Appeal Procedure:

A student and parent/guardian may appeal the "no credit" status and grade of "NC" at a hearing with the school administration. The hearing will be scheduled by the student and/or parent before the end of the semester. The principal/assistant principal will determine the student's final status for that semester. The student may appeal the principal's decision by submitting a written statement asking for a hearing with the Superintendent of schools. This letter should be submitted within two (2) days of the school's administrative decision. The Superintendent's decision may be appealed to the Artesia Board of Education.

### Absence/Tardy/Extra Credit Duration

Compulsory School Attendance Law = Full School Year
"No Credit" Status = Semester
Tardies = 9 Weeks
Extra Credit Attendance Points = 9 Weeks

#### **Tardies**

**Definition of a Tardy** – Secondary Student (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade): Arriving to any one (1) of the seven (7) class periods during the school day after the scheduled tardy bell has rung. Elementary Student (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade): Arriving after the official start time.

A secondary student (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) may be tardy to any one (1) class, two (2) times per nine (9)-week period, and no action will be taken. When a student receives three tardies in any one (1) class, the student will be sent to the office and the school administrator will take appropriate disciplinary action. Additional tardies will result in further disciplinary action taken by the school administrator. Tardiness of fifteen (15) minutes or more to a class (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) is considered an unexcused absence. The teacher shall notify the student when such incidents are recorded as absences.

Consequences for Tardies (Artesia Zia Intermediate)

3<sup>rd</sup> tardy = ISS for the period plus one day noon detention plus parent contact

4th tardy = One full day of ISS plus parent contact

5<sup>th</sup> tardy and each subsequent tardy = One day out of school suspension plus UX absence.

A "Tardy Log" has been included in the back of your handbook. You may choose to utilize it for your own documentation of tardies.

All office/teacher-caused tardies will be discouraged to the utmost. When unavoidable, a pass will be issued allowing sufficient passage time. Such situations will not be considered tardies.

Five (5) unexcused tardies (during a nine week period) shall count as an unexcused absence. Each tardy (during a nine week period) thereafter will also count as an unexcused absence.

### Extra Credit for Regular Attendance

Students who maintain consistent and regular attendance will be rewarded at the end of each nine (9) week period with points added to their final nine (9) week grade average as follows:

Zero to One Absence = 4 points added to the final nine weeks grade

- 2 Absences = 3 points added to the final nine weeks grade
- 3 Absences = 2 points added to the final nine weeks grade

#### Make Up Work for Absences

Make up work for absences is the responsibility of the student and will be allowed on the basis of one (1) day for every one missed, not to exceed two (2) weeks. A student who misses only one (1) day on the day of a previously announced test or deadline date will be responsible for making up the work the day he/she returns to school. Parents may request make-up work for students. Work requested by noon will be available for pick-up after 3:00 p.m. that day. Work requested after noon will be available for pick-up after 8:10 a.m. the following day.

#### **Homebound Program**

If a student is hospitalized or is out of school due to pregnancy or long-term illness, the student will be placed in the homebound program. A student's parent or guardian must notify the office within two (2) days after the start of a long-term illness. The principal or assistant principal will determine whether the student should be placed in the homebound program. A student that has been placed in the homebound program must bring a written physician's statement and Exclusions and Exemptions Form (J-1982 JHD-EB in School Board Manual) to the office explaining why the student is unable to attend school.

#### **TRUANCY**

#### **DEFINITIONS**

**Attendance-** Means students who are in class or in a school-approved activity. If a student is in attendance up to one half the total instructional time during a school day, the student will be counted as having attended half of a school day. If the student attends school for more than one-half of the total instructional time, the student will be counted as having attended for the full day.

**Early Identification-** Means the process by which school districts promptly determine and identify students who have excessive absences and tardiness from classes or school. Early identification includes the school district's defined system for recording, reporting, and summarizing daily attendance of its students and then providing that data to the district's central administration.

Habitual Truant- Means a student who has accumulated the equivalent of (10) or more unexcused absences within a school year.

**Intervention-** Means the partnering that schools engage in with other state agencies to implement administrative remedies, provide services and provide support programs that aggressively reduce if not eliminate truancy in a school district.

**Prevention-** Means school-based innovative or proven successful programs, including alternative programs whether school-based or non-school based, that encourage regular and on-time attendance for students.

**Truancy-** Means a student who has accumulated (5) unexcused absences within any twenty-day period. **Unexcused Absence-** Means an absence from school or a class for which the student does not have an allowable excuse pursuant to the compulsory school attendance law or rules of the local school board. [6.10.8.7 NMAC – N, 12-30-04]

#### **Parental Involvement**

After the **third (3<sup>rd</sup>), fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) and tenth (10<sup>th</sup>)** unexcused absence within the school year, parents will be notified by a form letter stating the number of the student's unexcused absences.

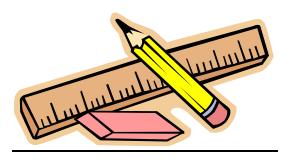
- If a student accumulates three (3) unexcused absences, the school will notify the parents using Form Letter I.
- If a student accumulates five (5) unexcused absences, the school will notify the parent(s) using Form Letter II. Upon a student's fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) unexcused absence within a school year, parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be contacted to inform them of the student's truancy, sign a contract (Exhibit A), and request their cooperation to meet and establish a cooperative arrangement to prevent future truancy by identifying:
  - the cause(s)
  - o preventative measures,
  - o resources to address the causes, and
  - o corrective action plan including follow-up procedures.

The parental meeting notice shall be respectful and the meeting shall be held in a language and manner understandable to the parent(s)/guardian(s).

#### **Notice of Habitual Truancy**

- Upon a student's tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) unexcused absence within a school year, written notice of the habitual truancy shall be given by certified mail to or by personal service on the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student subject to who is in noncompliance with the provisions of the Compulsory School Attendance Law. Form Letter III
- 2. Should an additional eleventh (11) unexcused absence occur after delivery of a written notice of habitual truancy, the student shall within seven (7) days of this unexcused absence be reported to the probation services office of the judicial district where the student resides for an investigation as to whether the student shall be considered to be a neglected child or a child in a family in need of services because of habitual truancy and thus subject to the provisions of the Children's Code [32A-1-1 NMSA 1978]. In addition to any other disposition, the children's court may order the habitual truant's driving privileges to be suspended for a specified time not to exceed ninety days on the first finding of habitual truancy and not to exceed one year for a subsequent finding of habitual truancy.
- 3. If the habitual truant is not referred to the children's court by the juvenile probation office for appropriate disposition, including consideration of initial or renewed suspension of his or her driving privileges, the school district may contact the children's court attorney directly to determine what action will be taken.
- 4. If a determination and finding has been made by the juvenile probation office that the habitual truancy by a student may have been caused by the parent or guardian of the student, and no charges have been filed against the parent or guardian, the school district may contact the district attorney's office or any law enforcement agency having jurisdiction for appropriate investigation and filing of charges allowed under the Compulsory School Attendance Law. Charges against the parent may be filed in metropolitan court, magistrate court or district court.
- 5. A parent of the student; who has received written notice, their matter has been reviewed and who knowingly allows their student to continue to violate the Compulsory School Attendance Law shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor. Upon the first conviction, a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) or more than one hundred dollars (\$100) may be imposed, or the parent of the student may be ordered to perform community service. If violations of the Compulsory School Attendance Law continue, upon the second and subsequent convictions, the parent of the student who knowingly allows the student to continue to violate the Compulsory School Attendance Law shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) or imprisonment for a definite term not to exceed six months or both.
  [6.10.8.8 NMAC N, 12-30-04]

Parents are the child's role models concerning the importance of education and responsibility, including the importance of attendance and showing up on time. Central School appreciates and applauds every parent who models these valuable qualities for the benefit of their child.



# **BREAKFAST AND LUNCH**

Breakfast - No charge for Breakfast in the Classroom

Lunch - \$2.75 (\$.40 reduced) Adults - \$4.00

Milk - \$.40

Especially for our younger students, it helps to send money in a sealed envelope with the name and purpose written on the front. Please note that students <u>are not</u> allowed to charge lunches. The secretary and your child will be calling you if they are out of lunch money.

# **REPORT CARDS**

Report cards are sent home at the end of each quarter. In addition, progress reports will be sent home midway through each of the first three quarters. In addition, once a week you will receive notification of your student's progress toward goals and behavior choices. Please check with the teacher at any time you have questions regarding your child's progress.

## **PARENTS AS PARTNERS IN EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS**

Parents play a key role in a child's educational success. Here are some things you can provide to help your child have a successful year:

- 1. Plenty of rest children need 10-12 hours of sleep.
- 2. Good grooming baths and clean clothes make children feel good about themselves and give them confidence with others.
- Encouragement of reading time equally balanced with play,TV, and chores.
- 4. Encouragement of participation in group activities such as scouting, church youth programs, sports, etc.

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework is an important part of a successful educational experience. Students, parents, and teachers all share in the responsibilities of homework.

## Student Responsibilities

- 1. Listen carefully to the teacher's directions regarding homework and ask questions if something isn't clear.
- 2. Take the assignment and/or necessary materials home.
- 3. Take enough time to complete the assignment.
- 4. Complete the homework carefully and neatly.
- 5. Return homework to the teacher as requested.

# Parent Responsibilities

- 1. Help your child schedule the after school hours in order to balance play/recreation and home/ study time.
- 2. Encourage the child to complete homework.
- 3. Give your undivided attention if your child needs assistance.

- 4. Praise your child for assignments well done.
- 5. Contact the teacher if there are questions about the assignment.
- 6. Sign homework if requested to do so.

At Central, every student is required to read every night!

# **SAFETY AT SCHOOL**

WHEN YOU PICK UP YOUR CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL, <u>PLEASE PARK</u>
ON THE SCHOOL SIDE OF THE STREET, SO YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE TO CROSS IN FRONT OF OTHER CARS.

Students are never allowed to go with anyone that has not had prior parent approval.

<u>Never</u> walk down alleys. <u>Stay on sidewalks.</u> Report any suspicious or unusual events to the principal and your parents.

We encourage all parents to instruct their children on the safest route to and from school. Our crossing guard for 7<sup>th</sup> Street is on duty every morning and afternoon on the corner of Missouri and 7<sup>th</sup>. All students crossing 7<sup>th</sup> Street must use this crossing.

Students may not bring guns or knives (toy or other) to school at any time. Expensive electronic equipment such as IPods, games, and cell phones should not be brought to school unless a teacher requests it for use in the classroom. If parents want their students to have cell phones for their use on the way home from school, the cell phone must be turned off and left inside the student's backpack at all times unless it is being used as a part of classroom instruction. If a cell

phone is seen outside of a backpack, the phone will be taken to the office and a parent will have to pick it up. Central Elementary will not be responsible for missing phones nor will we spend valuable educational time searching for missing items. These items are brought to school at your own risk.

# **CENTRAL'S SCHOOL RULES**

We always conduct ourselves respectfully. Our respect motto is :

"I respect myself, others and my school

In everything I say and everything I do."

On the playground we demonstrate respect by:

- 1. Leaving rocks on the ground.
- 2. Keeping our hands and our feet to ourselves.
- 3. Asking permission to leave the playground.
- 4. Using equipment correctly.
- 5. Using only appropriate language

In the cafeteria we demonstrate respect by:

- 1. Using good manners
- 2. Using a quiet voice



Our school counselor works in each classroom providing lessons on treating each other with respect and kindness. We promote a proactive approach to safety at school utilizing a program called Rachel's Challenge. Because of these approaches bullying (Bullying involves an imbalance of power between the bully and the victim, is intentionally harmful and occurs repetitively.) is seldom an issue. If your student witnesses bullying or believes they are being bullied, they should immediately report that to an adult in the building.

# **HEALTH AND MEDICINE**

Our school nurse is at Central one day a week. She will be available for emergencies on the remaining days. If your child becomes ill, we will call you at the number you have given our office. Please keep that information up-to-date. If you do not have a telephone, please list a friend or relative to contact.

No medication should be carried on a student's person or kept in a classroom. A doctor's form (available in our office) must accompany medicine sent to school. All medications are kept in the nurse's office and are administered by the secretary or the nurse.

## **SUPPLIES**

A list of supplies requested by your child's teacher is available from the secretary. Please check with your child and their teacher from time to time to see if these supplies need to be replenished.

# **DRESS CODE**

All students will adhere to the dress code for the Artesia Public Schools. A copy of the dress follows:

## STUDENT DRESS

The school has the right and the responsibility to intervene at any time that it feels the appearance of any individual does not conform to proper standards of dress. The dress code shall apply to all children who attend the Artesia Public Schools and all students who participate in student activities. All details of enforcement and judgment in disputes over dress codes are delegated to the Superintendent of Schools who may delegate this responsi bility to building principals. Appeals will follow the line of command from principals, to the superintendent, to the Board of Education.

## **Student Dress Code**

The citizens of the Artesia Public School District are dedicated to the concept of a comprehensive education for all students. The Artesia Board of Education, elected by the citizens and held legally responsible for this comprehensive educational program, must have certain rules and regulations that will maintain a climate conducive to the learning process. The Artesia Board of Education believes that student appearance and dress have a direct relationship to student learning; therefore, the Student Dress Code adopted includes the following concepts:

• Safety of the students.	
• Health of the students.	
Acceptable standards of decency.	
<ul> <li>Dress and appearance that is not distracting to the student involved or to othe students.</li> </ul>	:r
Girls	
Hair must be neat, clean, and well groomed. The hair style must not be one that will create a hazard to the student's health or safety, and it must not be distractive to stude learning. Hair will not cover the eyes.	
Shoes must be worn at all times. Bathroom or house-shoe type footwear are not acceptable. Shoes that are appropriate for the daily activities must be worn at all time	es.
The Artesia Public Schools believe that our students should dress appropriately for school. The students should not wear clothing which would detract from the learning process. The following must be adhered to:	<b>)</b>
<ul> <li>The hemline for dresses and skirts must be of sufficient length to reach mid-t or longer.</li> </ul>	high

- Shorts must be of sufficient length to reach mid-thigh or longer. Cutoffs, biker shorts, or spandex shorts are prohibited. Pant stride and waist line must be in the normal position. Sagging clothing is prohibited.
- Blouses with buttons are to be buttoned at all times with the exception of the top button which may or may not be buttoned. See- through clothing or off-the-shoulder blouses are prohibited. Tops/shirts must be of sufficient length to cover the top of the trousers, skirt, or shorts if the students' hands are raised above their head. Bare midriff is prohibited. Tank tops or muscle shirts are prohibited. Girls' tops must have a strap over the shoulder of at least two (2) inches in width. The showing of cleavage is prohibited.
- Any wearing apparel deemed indecent or distractive to student learning is prohibited. Clothing with inappropriate wording or pictures is prohibited. The District prohibits pictures, emblems, writings, colors, and styles of clothing that:
  - Are lewd, offensive, vulgar, or obscene.
  - Advertise or depict tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or any other substance prohibited under state or federal law.
  - Refer to or symbolize satanic, cult, or gang activities.
- No student on or about school property or at any school activity shall wear, possess, use, distribute, display or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign or other things which are evidence of membership or affiliation in any gang.
- Spandex or Spandex-type material is prohibited when worn as outer clothing.

•	Nose rings and spiked jewelry or studs are prohibited.
• dis <sub>l</sub>	Body Piercing jewelry may be displayed in the ears; body piercing jewelry played anywhere other than the ears is prohibited.
•	Chains are prohibited.
dist	Because of health, safety, and hygiene concerns, the school district strongly courages tattoos. Tattoos which are lewd, offensive, vulgar, obscene, or racting to student learning are not allowed to be visibly displayed at school or ool activities.
Boys	
create a learnin of a sta	ust be neat, clean, and well groomed. The hair style must not be one that will a hazard to the student's health or safety, and it must not be distractive to student g. Hair will not cover the eyes. Length of hair cannot be worn below the bottom ndard dress shirt collar. Boys not meeting the length requirement may be allowed t up during school hours and while participating in school activities.
Boys n	nust be clean shaven. Sideburns may not extend below the ear lobe.
	must be worn at all times. Bathroom or house-shoe type footwear are not able. Shoes that are appropriate for the daily activities must be worn at all times.

The Artesia Public Schools believe that our students should dress appropriately for school. The students should not wear clothing which would detract from the learning process. The following must be adhered to:

- Boys are to wear shirts at all times. Tops/shirts must be of sufficient length to cover the top of the trousers, or shorts if the students' hands are raised above their head. Bare midriff is prohibited. Tank tops or muscle shirts are prohibited; boys' tops must have sleeves. See-through clothing is prohibited.
- Shorts may be worn if the length is at least to mid-thigh or below. Cutoffs, biker shorts, or spandex shorts are prohibited. Pant stride and waistline must be in the normal position. Sagging clothing is prohibited.
- Any wearing apparel deemed indecent or distractive to student learning is prohibited. Clothing with inappropriate wording or pictures is prohibited. The district prohibits pictures, emblems, writings, colors, and styles of clothing that:
  - Are lewd, offensive, vulgar, or obscene.
  - Advertise or depict tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or any other substance prohibited under state or federal law.
  - Refer to or symbolize satanic, cult, or gang activities.
- No student on or about school property or at any school activity shall wear, possess, use, distribute, display or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign or other things which are evidence of membership or affiliation in any gang.

•	Spandex or Spandex-type material is prohibited when worn as outer clothing.
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Dress	Code Violations Consequences
the stu	ning. If the principal determines that a student's grooming violates the dress code, dent shall be given an opportunity to correct the problem at school. If not ted, the student's parent/guardian will be notified. The student shall be assigned to pol suspension for the remainder of the day or until the problem is corrected.
suspen	A student whose clothing violates the dress code shall be assigned to in-school asion either for the remainder of the day or until a parent or designee brings an able change of clothing to the school.