

Rule of 85 FAQ

1. What is the “Rule of 85”?

The Rule of 85 requires that students be in class and on time 85% of the time, calculated by school periods, in order to participate in many of the extra activities at VHS including athletics, cheer, drill team, dances, field trips etc.

2. Why this change in school policy?

A missed school day is a lost opportunity for students to learn. Our goal is to instill the belief and understanding to the students the importance of regular school attendance as chronic absenteeism will impact academic success and success in life.

3. What kind of absences/tardies are counted in calculating the 85%?

School related absences (e.g., field trips, sports excusals) **are not** counted. All other absences (excused, unexcused, truant, unverified etc.) are included in the calculation. Tardies are also counted.

4. So, if excused absences and unexcused/truant absences are counted the same under this rule, do we still need to write notes to clear absences?

YES! For other purposes there is a HUGE difference between excused absences and those that are not. For example, teachers are not required to allow students to make up work for absences that are not excused.

5. When will you determine eligibility under this rule?

We will check for eligibility every grading period. The following dates represent when student attendance will be examined.

September 13, 2019 (1st progress report)	February 7, 2020 (3rd Quarter Progress)
October 10, 2019 (End 1st Quarter)	March 13, 2020 (End 3rd Quarter)
November 15, 2019 (2nd Quarter Progress)	April 24, 2020 (4th Quarter Progress)
December 20, 2019 (End Semester 1)	June 5, 2020 (End Semester 2)

6. Is there anything “extra” a student can do to get back up the 85% threshold other than just being in school on time every day?

Yes. Each Saturday School a student attends removes a full day’s absence in calculating the Rule of 85. (It does not remove scattered period absences or tardies.) Students wishing to take advantage of this opportunity may sign up in the Student Support Center.

7. How does short- term independent study fit into this system?

If a student is out on short-term independent study and completes his or her work according the contract requirements, the student is not considered to have been absent. It’s as if the student was in class and on time for the duration of his or time out of school. If, however, the student does not complete his or her work in a timely manner, the student is considered absent for the time missed; this could have a significant impact on the student’s ability to reach the 85% mark.

2951 MARKELEY LANE
FAIRFIELD, CALIFORNIA 94533-6513
(707) 437-7333

*Kristin Shields, Principal
Julie Duffy, Assistant Principal
Daniel Mikkola, Assistant Principal
Nancy Vielhauer, Assistant Principal*

8. What if a student (or family) has some special circumstance?

We do understand families and students face unforeseen situations that are out of their control and can affect their school attendance. If a student does face special circumstances that affects their attendance, that student can contact their administrator to set up an appointment to formally appeal their situation. The administrative team will then make the decision if the student has indeed faced unavoidable circumstances. Please note all decisions are final at that point and students **are not** allowed to appeal that decision to the district office or governing board.

9. How does the appeal process work?

The appeal form can be picked up in the Student Support Center. It must be completed by the student and signed by the parent. Administration will call the student in once they have made a decision about whether or not the student qualifies for the appeal. If the student qualifies, administration will then remove the student's name from the ineligibility list and contact coaches (if applicable).

10. How can I calculate my percentage?

See the rule of 85 cheat sheet for the cumulative total number of absences/tardies that students must be under each week in order to be at 85% or above. Students and families can view their attendance on the Aeries Parent Portal and follow step 1 below to find out if you are under 85%. To calculate your specific percentage, follow the steps below:

1. Add up the total number of tardies, excused absences, unverified absences, unexcused absence, truant absences.
2. Multiply the number of days enrolled by the number of periods that you have.
3. Subtract the answer from #1 from the answer to #2.
4. Divide the answer from #3 by the answer from #2. This is your final percentage.

Example:

1. A student has 10 tardies, 30 periods of excused absences and 40 periods of unverified absences for a total of 80 periods.
2. The student has been enrolled for 70 days for 6 periods a day; $70 \times 6 = 420$.
3. $420 - 80 = 340$.
4. $340 / 420 = 80.9\%$