

**SERIES 300  
INSTRUCTION**

377.1

**STATE TOURNAMENT ATTENDANCE**

The Board of Education recognizes that it is a privilege when an athletic team that represents the school district has been successful enough to compete in the finals of state tournament competition. To provide for a clear understanding of the policy to be followed when school teams participate in state tournament events, the Board has set forth the following guidelines:

1. High school students who plan to attend a competition in which a Marshall team competes will be released at an appropriate time. The District Administrator, in consultation with the high school principal and athletic director, will determine the appropriate time for students to be released to allow for travel and attendance at the semi-finals and finals of the state tournament.
2. Transportation home will not be provided for those students that leave at the early dismissal time. It shall be the parents'/guardians' responsibility to pick up their children or make transportation arrangements if they wish to have them attend the game or meet. Transportation home will be provided for the students who remain in school and shall leave at the normal dismissal time.
3. School staff will supervise students at school until the regular dismissal time for students whose parents/guardians wish them to remain at school.
4. The school accepts no responsibility for the cost, safety or activities of students attending the WIAA Tournament, unless they are a participant in the tournament.
5. Students who are participants in WIAA tournaments shall be released from school to participate in pre-tournament and tournament activities. The district is responsible for providing safe transportation, lodging, meals, and supervision of tournament participants at all activities during tournaments. Coaches and other adults approved by the high school principal shall be responsible for this supervision, including overnight stays when appropriate.
6. All athletes and students attending a WIAA tournament are expected to behave in accordance with Marshall Public Schools conduct policies and by the guidelines and rules established by the WIAA.
7. When school district teams are not active participants, tournament competition which takes place during school hours may only be attended by students who: 1) go with a parent/guardian as stated in a pre-absence note addressed to the building principal at least 24 hours in advance of the tournament; or 2) go on school approved transportation which is supervised by school staff and/or adults approved by the high school principal; **and** 3) complete the work they will be missing prior to leaving for the tournament. Students shall not transport themselves or others under any circumstances.

8. When school district teams are not active participants, students in grades PreK-8 who attend the tournament must be accompanied by a parent and/or guardian and be excused by the building principal.
9. The administration has the authority to allow excused absences for all or part of the school day for non-participating students to attend as spectators.
10. In all student attendance situations, the school administration has the ultimate decision.
11. Faculty members will not be school chaperones for non-participating students or athletes unless approved fan buses are provided by the district.
12. The arranging of transportation, housing, meals, and tickets of non-participating students is left strictly to the students' parents.
13. All school sponsored student participation at state tournaments must be approved by the district administrator.
14. Faculty members will be given the following options:
  - a. A faculty member may desire to serve as a chaperone at the event. In that case, the faculty member would be required to ride the school bus and sit with the students throughout the event. No additional pay would be forthcoming for this chaperoning, unless it is outside the school day. The administration shall determine the number of faculty chaperones needed for an event and shall select the faculty members who shall serve as chaperones.
  - b. A faculty member may choose to remain in his/her classroom to help supervise the students that remain in school. In this case, normal dismissal time would be in effect.
  - c. A faculty member, who may choose to go to the game but may not wish to be a chaperone, will be released without pay for the period of their normal workday.
  - d. A faculty member may use a personal day in accordance with the current employee agreement or handbook.

This policy shall be in effect for all team state semi-finals and finals competition, but shall not be followed for individual athletic competitions.

Cross References: 431 Compulsory Student Attendance

Date of Adoption: November 19, 1997

Date of Revision: January 25, 2012