

2019-2020 Highland High School Sweep Program - FAQ Sheet

What is Sweep? "Sweep" is a proven method used by many traditional high schools—including those in our own district—to reduce the number of student absences and tardies, resulting in increased learning time with fewer classroom disruptions.

Why Sweep? As always, safety within this school is our first priority. This program will reduce the number of students in the hallways and will assist everyone in moving through the school safely and expeditiously.

We know that students who are in class, on time, and prepared are more likely to be successful. Research has shown that schools implementing Sweep have reduced tardies by more than 90% in as little as five weeks, thereby increasing instructional time and momentum—in some cases, gaining the equivalent of three extra days a year per student. Curbing tardiness with a solid plan can significantly improve student skills by teaching responsibility, respect, accountability, and civility—skills that will serve our students well for their entire lives.

Our own attendance data supports the need to change our policy regarding students who are tardy in first hour. In 2016-2017, students accumulated over *12,000 unexcused absences and tardies*. 40% of these came from first hour. There were *1,849* tardy students late for first hour in the last nine weeks of school. Since the implementation of Sweep, those numbers have dropped drastically, by nearly 60%.

What are the benefits of Sweep?

- Reduces tardiness, absenteeism, and classroom disruptions
- Reduces office referrals, in-school and out-of-school suspensions, and expulsions
- Curtails misbehavior in common areas (fighting, bullying, illegal behavior)
- Improves faculty and staff morale by unifying staff with a common purpose: more students, in class, learning
- Enhances safety on campus and contributes to an overall improvement of school climate and culture

When does Sweep begin, and where will students go? The first full week of school will be considered practice. Students will be reminded daily that beginning **Monday, August 12th**, students who are late to first hour will be sent to the cafeteria to wait for second hour to begin. This is what we call being "swept" or being sent to "sweep."

How does Sweep work? Students will sign in upon entering the sweep room. Sweep is not a study hall; therefore, students will not have access to their backpacks or phones and will not be allowed to bring in food or drinks. Likewise, students will not talk or sleep, and they may also be required to complete a reflection form on why they are in the Sweep Room.

Will my child be able to make up work missed during Sweep? It is the student's responsibility to meet with 1st period teacher for missed assignments prior to 2:45 p.m. that SAME DAY.

What if my child has an assignment due? After signing in to Sweep, students will fill out a brief form, attach it to their assignment, then drop it in the basket to be delivered to teachers' mailboxes.

What if my child has a test? Sweep will not be used as an excuse not to take a test and vice versa. Students who have a test on a day they are swept will need to check in with the sweep monitor to receive a pass to class; otherwise, they will not be able to make up the test. An appropriate, alternative consequence will follow for these students in place of sweep.

How can my child avoid being sent to Sweep? As long as students are on time to class, they will not have anything to worry about. If students are tardy (up to 10 minutes late) to 1st period, however, due to doctor's appointments or other unavoidable circumstances, they must present a doctor's note upon check-in with the attendance office OR be physically accompanied by a parent/legal guardian (phone calls/written notes from parents will not suffice). These students will still be marked "tardy," but will be sent to class with a pass from attendance. **NOTE:** If tardiness becomes excessive, the

student may receive a disciplinary referral at the teacher's discretion, which may result in consequences from administration.

If a student is more than 10 minutes late due to doctor's appointments or other unavoidable circumstances, they must present a doctor's note upon check-in with the attendance office OR be physically accompanied by a parent/legal guardian (phone calls/written notes from parents will not suffice). These students will be marked "excused" absent and sent to class with their pass from attendance.

What are the consequences for a student who is chronically tardy? After the 5th sweep, student will be referred to administration for appropriate consequences (i.e. lunch detention). If students refuse to serve assigned initial consequence, they may be written up for defiance of authority and given appropriate additional consequences.

How does a "sweep" impact student attendance? If a student is swept during the first 10 minutes of class, the absence will not count toward class attendance and being dropped from a class. If a student is swept after the 10-minute mark, however, the student will be marked absent, and the absence will count toward class attendance and being dropped from a class. Students cannot be automatically dropped from a class if they are consistently swept during the first 10 minutes. Students can, however, be dropped if they are failing a class.

How do I know if my child has been sent to Sweep? The school will NOT be calling to inform parents that their students have attended Sweep. Parents can log into the Infinite Campus parent portal to keep track of Sweep (SWEEP) attendance.

What are the consequences for Excessive Sweeps? After the 5th sweep, student will be referred to administration for appropriate consequences. If the student refuses to serve detention and/or attend Saturday school, they may be written up for defiance of authority and given appropriate consequences.

What if a student is caught ditching? When a student refuses to go to class and is not swept, they are ditching. This will count as an unexcused absence and result in disciplinary consequences; if repeated/excessive, can also result in being dropped from the class. This will be handled by the grade-level administrator.