

## Consequences

A student that is tardy:

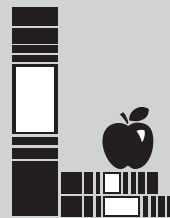
1. Misses important instructional/educational time with the teacher and the class.
2. May earn lower grades, or fail, due to missing the instructional/educational time with the teacher and the class.
3. May be requested to remain after school to make up the time missed.  
(State Statute 79-4173)
4. May be referred to the Department of Student Services at the Lincoln Public Schools District Offices.
5. May be referred to Child Protective Services for parent neglect.  
(State Statute 79-201)
6. May be referred to County Attorney's Office for parent neglect.  
(State Statute 79-201)



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# TARDIES THEY CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR EVERYONE

## A Guide for Students and Parents

Department of Student Services  
Lincoln Public Schools  
Lincoln, Nebraska

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The policy of the Lincoln Public 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 permission. 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 I.



## 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 these responsible 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 can **not** 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 Lincoln Public Schools District Offices at 5901 O Street; and perhaps, a referral to Child Protective Services or the County Attorney’s office could occur and would cause more disruptions for the parents.

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.**

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