

Attendance Definitions:

“Chronic Absenteeism” is missing 10% of the school days or hours in a grading period.

“School Engagement Meeting” is a meeting of the student, parent, and a school official to identify barriers to attendance and interventions to develop an Absenteeism Prevention Plan to improve student attendance. This meeting takes place when a student is missing 15% of the school days or hours in a grading period.

“Absenteeism Prevention Plan” is plan put into place during the School Engagement Meeting to assign responsibilities to the student, parent, and the school official to improve the student’s attendance.

“Truancy” is missing 20% of the school days or hours in a grading period. Truancy is filed with the county attorney when a parent does not attend the School Engagement Meeting, do not enter into an Absenteeism Prevention Plan, or violate the terms of the Absenteeism Prevention Plan.

Compulsory Attendance:

Parent/guardians within the district who have children over age six (6) and under age sixteen (16) years of age by September 15, in proper physical and mental condition to attend school, will have the children attend school at the district attendance center designated by the board.

Students of compulsory attendance age will attend school a minimum of 90% of the days or hours offered in the school calendar.

Students not attending the minimum days or hours must be exempted by this policy as listed below or, referred to the county attorney

- has completed the requirements for graduation in an accredited school or has obtained a high school equivalency diploma;
- is attending religious services or receiving qualifying religious instruction in accordance with relevant laws;
- is unable to attend school due to legitimate medical reasons;
- has an individualized education program that affects the child’s attendance;
- has a plan under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C. 794, that affects the child’s attendance;
- is attending an approved or probationally approved private college preparatory school;
- is attending an accredited nonpublic school;
- is excused for sufficient reason by any court of record or judge;
- is receiving independent private instruction; ~~or~~
- is receiving competent private instruction.
- are a military applicant undergoing military entrance processing;
- are engaged in military service;
- are traveling to attend a funeral; or
- are traveling to attend a wedding.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian of a child to provide evidence of the child's mental and physical inability to attend school or of the child's qualifications for one of the exceptions listed above. Evidence may be shown in written or verbal communications with the building level administration. Reasonable travel time will be afforded for engaging in the exceptions listed above.

Statewide Preschool Program and Kindergarten:

Students who have reached the age of four (4) by September 15 and enrolled in the statewide preschool program and students who have reached the age of five (5) by September 15 and enrolled in the district's kindergarten program, will be considered to be of compulsory attendance age unless the parent/guardian of the child notifies the district in writing of their intent to remove the child from enrollment in the school district.

Note: This is a mandatory policy.

Adopted: 1967

Reviewed and Amended: 4/14/89; 3/8/93; 8/96; 9/27/99; 12/22/08; 12/18/13; 6/8/16; 2/28/22; 8/26/24; 8/25/25