

ATTENDANCE

in ISD 728

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
Read well by the end of third grade



MIDDLE SCHOOLERS
pass important courses



HIGH SCHOOLERS
stay on track for graduation



COLLEGE STUDENTS
earn their degrees



WORKERS
succeed in their job

SUCCESS

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS: GRADES K-5

Did you know?

- » Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- » Missing 10% (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- » Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- » Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- » Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

What you can do

- » Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- » Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- » Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- » Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.
- » Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- » If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- » Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- » Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.
- » For additional information visit www.attendanceworks.org

SECONDARY STUDENTS: GRADES 6-12

Did you know?

- » Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- » Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- » By 6th grade, absenteeism is 1 of 3 signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- » By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- » Missing 10%, or about 18 days, of the school year can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- » Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.
- » Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job.

What you can do

- » Talk about the importance of showing up to school everyday, make that the expectation.
- » Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- » Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.
- » Don't let your child stay home unless truly sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety.
- » Find out if your child feels engaged by his classes and feels safe from bullies and other threats. Make sure he/she is not missing class because of behavioral issues and school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, work with your school.
- » Stay on top of academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors if necessary.
- » Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- » Encourage meaningful after-school activities, including sports and clubs.
- » Communicate with the school.
- » Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties.
- » Talk to teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.
- » Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not piling up.
- » Ask for help from school officials, after-school programs, other parents or community agencies if you're having trouble getting your child to school.
- » For additional information visit www.attendanceworks.org

The ISD 728 school board believes that regular school attendance is directly related to success in academic work, benefits students socially, provides opportunities for important communications between teachers and students, and establishes regular habits of dependability important to the future of the student. The purpose of the attendance policy is to encourage regular school attendance Kindergarten through 12th grade. It is intended to be positive and not punitive.

The students of ISD 728 are required to attend all assigned classes and/or study halls every day that school is in session, unless the student has been excused by the school board from attendance because the student has already completed state and school district standards required to graduate from high school, has withdrawn, or has a valid excuse for absence.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Student

It is the student's responsibility to attend all assigned classes and study halls every day that school is in session and to be aware of and follow the correct procedures when absent from an assigned class or study hall. Finally, it is the student's responsibility to request any missed assignments due to an absence.

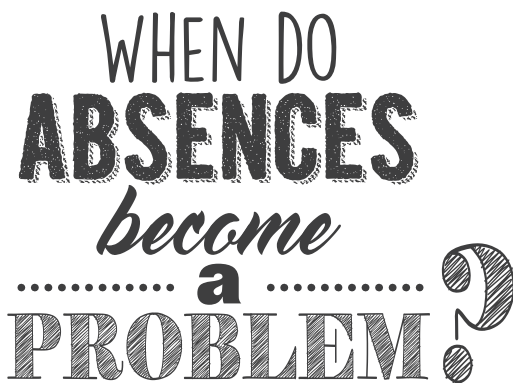
Parent/Guardian

It is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to ensure the student is attending school, to inform the school in the event of a student absence, and to work cooperatively with the school and the student to solve any attendance problems that may arise.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

To be considered excused, parents or legal guardians must inform the school of the reason, follow attendance procedures and cite one of the following examples:

- » Illness.
- » Serious illness in the student's immediate family.
- » A death or funeral in the student's immediate family or of a close friend or relative.
- » Medical, dental, or orthodontic treatment, or a counseling appointment. A note may be required.
- » Court appearances occasioned by family or personal action.
- » Religious instruction not to exceed 3 hours in any week.
- » Physical emergency conditions such as fire, flood, storm, etc.
- » Official school field trip or other school-sponsored outing.
- » Removal of a student pursuant to a suspension. Suspensions are to be handled as excused absences and students will be permitted to complete makeup work.
- » Family emergencies.
- » Active duty in any military branch of the United States.
- » A student's condition that requires ongoing treatment by a licensed mental health provider.
- » Vacations with family with pre-approval.
- » Other valid reasons as determined by the administrator.



CHRONIC ABSENCE
18 OR MORE DAYS

WARNING SIGNS
10 TO 17 DAYS

SATISFACTORY
9 OR FEWER ABSENCES

NOTE:

These numbers assume a 180-day school year.
www.attendanceworks.org

REPORTING

Continuing Truant

We are required by law to report student absences, without valid excuses, within a single school year if the student is absent for:

- » 3 days if the child is in elementary school.
- » 3 or more class periods on 3 days if the child is in middle school or high school.

When a student is initially classified as a continuing truant, the school attendance officer or other designated school official will notify the student's parent or legal guardian, by first class mail or other reasonable means.

Habitual Truant

According to District policy, Habitual Truant is a child under the age of 17 who is absent from school without lawful excuse for:

- » 7 school days per school year if the child is in elementary school.
- » 1 or more class periods on 7 days per school if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school.
- » A child who is 17 years of age who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for one or more class periods on 7 school days and who has not lawfully withdrawn from school.

Educational Neglect

A child is in need of protection or services because the child is without the necessary food, clothing, shelter, education, or other required care for the child's physical or mental health or morals because the child's parent, guardian, or custodian is unable or unwilling to provide that care.

Educational neglect is a mandated Child Protection report under the Reporting ACT.

For more information visit www.isd728.org/AttendancePolicy