
Attendance

— November 30, 2021 —

Agenda

- I. Attendance Teams
- II. Terminology Review
- III. Attendance Practices
- IV. COVID-19 Related Absences
- V. Benefits of Consistent Attendance
- VI. Questions?

Attendance Teams

District Office, Student Services Department

- Shauna Ashmore, Director
- Amber Bowman, Coordinator
- Dr. Lisa Miller, Assistant Superintendent

School Sites

- Elementary Principal, Attendance Clerk, Counselor/Other Support Staff
- Middle School Assistant Principal, Attendance Clerk, Counselor/Other Support Staff
- High School Assistant Principal of Attendance, Attendance Clerk, Counselor/Other Support Staff

Terminology Review

- **Attendance:** a student is present at school
- **Tardy:** a student that arrives late or after the start of school
- **Absent:** a student that is not present in school
- **Verified Unexcused:** a student that was not present to class and although an explanation was given, the school is unable to excuse the absence
- **Excused Absence:** a student was absent to class with an acceptable explanation
- **Truant:** a student who is absent without an explanation
- **School Attendance Review Board (SARB):** a team of community members that work with the family to solve issues related to attendance

Truancy/Absence

- All children are legally required to attend school
 - Ages 6-18 or until HS diploma, certificate of completion or GED earned
- Contacted Unexcused or Truant
 - Contacted Unexcused= a student that was not present in school and although an explanation was given, the school does not excuse the absence
 - Truant = a student who is absent without an explanation
- 3 or more truant or unexcused absences = truancy letter sent to parents
 - Mailed to home address
- 2 truancy letters = parents and school meet to:
 - Identify strategies/help so the student attends
- 3 truancy letters = parents, school, district, and community members meet to:
 - Identify strategies/help so the student attends

Absences

Excused Absences per Education Code 48205

- Personal illness (includes mental or behavioral health)
- Quarantine under the direction of a health officer
- Personal medical, dental, optometric or chiropractic appointment
- Funeral services for a member of the immediate family (limited to one day in the state, and three days out of state)
- Student serving on jury duty
- Personal court appearance (requires verification)

COVID-19 Related Absences

Assembly Bill 130 (AB130) has provided school districts guidance on offering Short Term Independent Study (STIS) in response to COVID-19 related reasons for absence:

- COVID-19 positive case
- Confirmed close contact at school, home or community
- Experiencing COVID-19 symptoms

STIS Guidelines:

- Can range from 3-14 days total within the school year
- Requires a contract to be signed by the parent/guardian, teacher and administrator
- Attendance be marked Short Term Independent Study Complete or Short Term Independent Study Incomplete, based on student work submission

Benefits of Consistent School Attendance

- School success goes hand in hand with good attendance
- Enables students to establish relationships with peers and positive rapport with teachers and other adults on campus.
- Starting in kindergarten, missing 10% of school (or just 2 days every month) can make it harder to learn and cause children to fall behind
- Good attendance, whether class is held in person or remotely, can help children do well in school, and eventually in college and/or the workplace



What families can do



Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.

Build regular routines for bed time and the morning.

Talk about the importance of regular attendance and about how your child feels about school.



Don't permit missing school unless your child is truly sick. Use a thermometer to check for a fever. Remember that stomach aches and headaches may be signs of anxiety.

Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.



Keep a chart recording your child's attendance at home. At the end of the week, talk with your child about what you see.

Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Ask a family member, neighbor or another parent for help



Seek support from school staff or community groups to help with transportation, health problems, or no safe path to school.

Lo que las familias pueden hacer



Averigüe que día empieza la escuela y asegúrese que su hijo tiene las vacunas requeridas.

Establezca rutinas diarias para la hora de dormir y la mañana.

Hable sobre la importancia de asistir a la escuela con regularidad y pregúntele a su hijo como se siente sobre la escuela.



No permita que su hijo falte a la escuela a menos que esté realmente enfermo. Use un termómetro para comprobar que tiene fiebre. Recuerde que los dolores de estómago y dolores de cabeza pueden ser signos de ansiedad.

Evite las citas médicas y viajes largos durante el horario escolar.



Lleve un registro en casa de la asistencia de su hijo. Al final de la semana, hablele de lo que usted ve.

Desarrolle planes de respaldo para llegar a la escuela si surge algo. Pídale ayuda a un familiar, un vecino u otro padre.



Busque el apoyo de grupos de personal de la escuela o de la comunidad para ayudarse con el transporte, problemas de salud o camino no seguro a la escuela.

Questions?

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you for inviting us!

