

STUDENTS MUST ATTEND SCHOOL EVERY DAY

IT'S THE LAW!

Any child at the age of 6 by September 1 (2013) must attend school until his/her 18th birthday.

Any child who is younger than 6, once enrolled, is subject to Compulsory Attendance Laws.

When is a student in violation of the compulsory attendance law?

A student who has three unexcused/unverified absences in a 4-week time period or 10 unexcused absences in a 6-month time period is determined to be in violation of the Compulsory Attendance Law.

What happens if a student is in violation of the compulsory attendance law?

Parents are subject to prosecution for *Contributing to Non-attendance*:

If their child has 10 or more days of unexcused/unverified absences within a 6-month period,
or 3 or more days of unexcused/unverified absences within a four-week period.

Secondary students are also subject to prosecution if they have:

10 or more days of unexcused/unverified absences within a 6-month period,
or 3 or more days of unexcused/unverified absences within a four-week period.

Secondary students may have an unexcused/unverified absence for each class period including extreme tardies.

What is an unexcused absence?

An unexcused absence is an absence that does not fall within the state or district guidelines (see excused absences) despite documentation meeting district time lines.

What is an unverified absence?

Documentation may have been turned in within the 72 hour time frame but the reason is not acceptable.

What is an excused absence?

The following are approved district absences (if documented):

- Medical illness
- Board-approved extracurricular activities
- Medical appointments, screenings, etc.
- Juvenile or other court proceedings
- Absences required by state or local welfare authorities
- Approved college visitations for Juniors and Seniors only
- Death and/or serious illness of an immediate family member
- Religious holy days
- Family emergencies (approved by administrators)
- Weather and road conditions that make traveling dangerous
- Quarantine
- Deployment of immediate family members

Note: A student absent five or more consecutive days because of a personal illness must bring a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student's extended absence from school. [FEC (LOCAL).] If a student has excessive absences, the superintendent's designee, the campus attendance committee and/or the court may require a doctor's note for all future absences for the remainder of the school year.

All of the criteria listed above must have adequate documentation. If the documentation is not presented to the campus within three school days (72 hours) after the student returns to school, the absences will be marked unexcused. If you have questions about documentation, please contact your school attendance office. If there is a situation that does not meet the above criteria, contact your principal who will review individual situations.

For additional information, please contact the Denton ISD Attendance office:

(940) 369-0290 ☞ (940) 369-0292 ☞ (940) 369-0293