



Tips for Good Attendance

- If your child is absent, turn in your parent note or official documentation within 72 hours (three school days) of your child's return to school. Phone messages explaining absences are **appreciated but not acceptable forms of documentation to excuse an absence.**

Communication with your child's school is critical. If, you have a situation specific to your child, please contact the campus administrator. School personnel are bound by student confidentiality.

- Compulsory Attendance Law states that a student is in violation if he/she has 10 or more days or parts of days in a 6-month period of unexcused/unverified absences (HB 2398).
- Become familiar with the acceptable reasons by Texas law and district policy on what absences can be *excused*. To find out more about Compulsory Attendance, please visit the Denton ISD Student Support Services home page at www.dentonisd.org/Domain/85. Find "attendance documents" and click "It's the Law" flyer.
- A Loss Of Significant Instructional Time (LOSIT) is when a student is tardy 15 minutes or more and leaves early missing classroom instruction, this can be coded as a LOSIT. A district attendance warning letter will be sent if the LOSITS continues or become habitual. All LOSITS are counted in with attendance.
- Head Lice: If a student has evidence of pediculosis (live lice and/or nits), the student must be treated before coming back to school. Students are given the day they were sent home (counts as one day) and the following day to treat for lice (day two), and those days will be counted as excused absences (total two days). Additional days allowed by the school nurse will be counted as EXHLT absence. Any absences related to lice beyond the allowed days will be unverified/unexcused. Before returning to school, the student must be assessed and cleared of lice by the School Nurse.
- Religious holy days: Parents, please notify a campus administrator any time your child will miss school for a religious holy day. Communicate with the campus administrator on how many days are needed to attend, including travel to and from the event. It is a parent's responsibility to check with administrators prior to the holy day to see if it is approved by the state. A written document of the religious holy day is appreciated and needs to be turned in upon return.
- Funeral: The district allows for students to miss school for the death of an immediate family member (parent, grandparent, sibling, step-parent, step-sibling, and/or other family members that take on the role of parent/legal guardian). Communicate clearly with the campus administrator on how many days the student will be missing instruction. Documentation is appreciated and needs to be turned in upon return.
- Serious Illness: A student absent for 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. Otherwise the absence may be considered unexcused. Also, if a student has a questionable pattern of absences, the principal or attendance committee may require a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying an illness or condition to determine whether the absence will be excused or unexcused.
- If the school nurse excludes a student from school for health reasons, that sent-home day is counted as verified per nurse documentation. If the nurse says the child can't come back until symptoms are resolved (not fever free) or student is cleared by a doctor, documentation from the parent is required for any additional days missed and must be turned in within 72 hours (3 school days) of a child's return to school.

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

(940) 369-0292 ☎ (940) 369-0293

For High School, call the Attendance Liaison/Office.