



10 Tips for Good Attendance

1. 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 or e-mails explaining absences are appreciated but not acceptable forms of documentation to excuse an absence.
2. 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 or LOSITS.
3. Become familiar with the acceptable reasons by Texas law and district policy on what absences can be *excused*. An *unexcused absence* occurs when a parent presents documentation that is *not* for an approved reason. An *unverified absence* occurs when no documentation is turned in at all or past the 72 hours.
4. HB 2398 states "If a student is absent from school on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six month period in the same school year, the student's parent is subject to prosecution." When an elementary/middle school student is tardy 15 minutes or more, that is referred to as a Loss Of Significant Instructional Time (LOSIT). If a student leaves early missing classroom instruction, that too can be coded as a LOSIT. A district attendance warning letter will be sent if the LOSITS continue or become habitual.
5. Communication with your child's school is critical. If there is a situation or event going on that could affect your child's attendance, please make arrangements to share that information with a campus administrator so that all necessary parties are aware. School personnel are bound by student confidentiality and may provide resources to your family through local organizations and charities who graciously work with our families in times of need or unexpected situations.
6. Head Lice: According to Texas Law, students who have evidence of active pediculosis (the presence of live adult or nymph lice) will be excluded from school as soon as possible that day so that treatment may begin. Although time-intensive, the recommended treatments for pediculosis are inexpensive and relatively easy to perform. Students absent more than two full school days for pediculosis will have a follow-up call from the school nurse to assess progress and see if any additional resources are needed. When the student returns to school the parent must bring the student in for the school nurse to check and clear them.
7. 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. Documentation needs to be turned in upon return.
8. 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 needs to be turned in upon return.
9. 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 in order to determine whether the absence will be excused or unexcused.
10. 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 they're feeling better, 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:

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