

TRUANCY

TEXAS EDUCATION CODE (TEC) & FAMILY CODE (TFC)

TEC:25085-COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: A child who is at least six years of age, or is younger than six years of age and has previously enrolled in first grade, and who has not yet reached the child's 19th birthday shall attend school. On enrollment in prekindergarten or kindergarten, a child shall attend school.

TEC 25.095 WARNING NOTICES: (a) A school district or open-enrollment charter school shall notify a student's parent in writing at the beginning of the school year that if the student is absent from school on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year:

- (1) the student's parent is subject to prosecution under Section 25.093; and
- (2) the student is subject to referral to a truancy court for truant conduct under Section 65.003(a), TFC.

TEC 25.093 PARENT CONTRIBUTING TO

NONATTENDANCE: The parent with criminal negligence fails to require the child to attend school as required by law, and the child has 10 unexcused absences within a 6 month period.

TFC 65.003. TRUANT CONDUCT: A child engages in truant conduct if the child is required to attend school under Section 25.085, Education Code, and fails to attend school on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year.

SUPPORT OUTSTANDING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AT HOME BY:

- Making sure your child gets enough sleep and a nutritious breakfast each day.
- Helping your child develop a positive attitude toward school and learning and encouraging him/her to participate in school activities.
- Explaining Compulsory Education – by law all students must attend school daily and on time.
- Teaching the benefits of good attendance and consequences of poor attendance.
- Creating back-up systems. (alternative plans for getting to and from school)
- Creating morning and evening routines.
- Gaining access to the ParentPortal and monitoring your child(ren)'s up to the minute progress online.
- Making your school aware of any issues that may be affecting your child's attendance.
- Making sure your child's school has accurate daytime contact information including cell phone number and/or e-mail address.
- Notifying school staff if your child suffers from a chronic health condition and how this condition is impacting school attendance.



The foundation of student academic success is excellent attendance. ECISD wants to partner with all parents to ensure students attend regularly and to address any issues that may impact attendance.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE = STUDENT SUCCESS

If you need help, please call the ECISD Community Outreach Center at 456-8569.



OUR students... THE future

School Attendance

A Guide for Parents

**Ector County Independent School District
Community Outreach Center
301 E. Clements
Odessa, TX 79761
(432) 456-8569**

STUDENT ATTENDANCE = STUDENT SUCCESS

GOAL: 100% GRADUATION

- School attendance is the strongest predictor of high school graduation.
- 87% of high school students who miss 7 or fewer days of school per year graduate on time.
- A high school graduate will earn about \$300,000 more than a high school drop out over a lifetime. A college graduate will earn about \$1,000,000 more than a high school drop out over a lifetime.
- High School dropouts are more likely to be unemployed, live in poverty, receive public assistance and go to prison.

GOAL: 100% ATTENDANCE

- Students with good attendance do better in school, have more friends, like school and are more likely to graduate.
- Successful students miss 7 or fewer days of school per year.

What can parents do?:

- Plan family vacations for non-school days only.
- Schedule non-emergency medical and dental appointments after school hours on weekends or during your child's vacation.
- If the appointment must be during school hours, please have your child attend school prior to the appointment and/or return to school after the appointment to complete the school day.
- Communicate often with your child's teachers and request assignments missed during absences.

ALL ABSENCES CONSIDERED

All absences, whether excused or unexcused, must be considered in determining whether a student has attended the required percentage of days. When a student's attendance drops below 90 percent but remains at least at 75 percent of the days the class is offered, the student may earn credit for the class or a final grade by completing a plan approved by the principal.

DOCUMENTATION AFTER AN ABSENCE (ALL GRADE LEVELS):

When a student is absent from school, the student—upon arrival or return to school—must bring a note signed by the parent that describes the reason for the absence. A note signed by the student, even with the parent's permission, will not be accepted unless the student is age 18 or older or is an emancipated minor under state law. A phone call from the parent may be accepted, but the district reserves the right to require a written note. The campus will document in its attendance records for the student whether the absence is considered by the district to be excused or unexcused. Note: Unless the absence is for a statutorily allowed reason under compulsory attendance laws, the district is not required to excuse any absence, even if the parent provides a note explaining the absence. Should the student develop a questionable pattern of absences, the principal or attendance committee may require a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student's absence from school to determine whether the absence or absences will be excused or unexcused.

EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR COMPULSORY

ATTENDANCE: Religious holy days; Citizenship proceedings; Required court appearances; Serving as an election clerk; Documented health care appointments; For students in foster care, any

activity required by the court; Higher education visits for junior and seniors; Military dependent children visiting parent; Extenuating circumstances: please schedule an appointment with the principal to discuss your request for an excused absence.

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Unexcused Absence: 1. occurs when student is absent from school and parent does not contact the campus within 5 days to inform the school of the absence or 2. The reason for the absence reported to the campus is one that is not an exemption to the compulsory attendance law, or the absence is not for a reason deemed acceptable by the teacher, principal or superintendent.

ECISD TRUANCY PREVENTION MEASURES:

Beginning of the school year: Student parent handbook defines the compulsory attendance law.

For each absence: the district's automated calling system will notify the parent. (please ensure parent contact information is current with your child's school)

3rd unexcused absence within a 4 week period: Initial Warning Letter mailed to parent.

5th unexcused absence within a 6 month period: Final Warning Notice mailed to parent.

5th – 9th unexcused absences within a 6 month period: Parent/guardian conferences with school staff.

10th unexcused absence within a 6 month period: Parent Contributing to Non Attendance charges filed in Municipal Court.