

TRUANCY

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

TEC:25086-COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: A child who is at least six years of age, or is younger than six years of age and has previously been enrolled in the first grade, and who has not yet reached the child's 19th birthday shall attend school. On enrollment in pre-kindergarten or kindergarten, a child shall attend school.

TEC:25095-WARNING NOTICES: (a) A school district shall notify a student's parent at the beginning of the school year that if the student is unexcused from school on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school:

- 1) the student's parent is subject to prosecution under Section 25.093; and
 - 2) The student is subject to referral to truancy court for truant conduct under Section 65.003(a) (TFC)
- (b) A school district shall notify a student's parent if the student has been absent from school, without excuse under Section 25.087, on three days or parts of days within a four-week period. The notice must inform the parent that it is the parent's duty to monitor the student's school attendance and require the student to attend school; and the student is subject to truancy prevention measures under Section 25.0915; and attend a conference between school officials and the parent to discuss the absences. The fact that the parent did not receive the notice does not create a defense in court under Section 25.093 or under Section 65.003(a) (TFC).

TFC:65003-TRUANT CONDUCT: A child defined as 12 years or older and younger than 19 years of age engages in truant conduct if the child is required to attend school under Section 25.085 (TEC), and fails to attend school on 10 or more days or parts of days in a six-month period.

TFC:25093-PARENT CONTRIBUTING TO NON-ATTENDANCE: The parent with criminal negligence fails to require the a school aged child to attend school as required by law, and the child has unexcused absences for 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month peri-

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.
- Posting school calendars, school attendance policy, and schedules in a visible place.
- Gaining access to TXConnect 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. MISD wants to partner with all parents to ensure students attend regularly and to address any issues that impact attendance.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE = STUDENT SUCCESS

Educating the Future!



Midland Independent School District

School Attendance

- A Guide for Parents -

MISD expects all students to maintain a 96% or better attendance rate.

Midland Independent School District
Student Attendance Department
615 W Missouri
Midland TX 79701
432-240-1520

STUDENT ATTENDANCE = STUDENT SUCCESS

GOAL: 100% GRADUATION

-School attendance is the strongest predictor of high school graduation.

-87% of high school students who missed 7 or fewer days of school per year graduated on time.

-A high school graduate will earn about \$300,000.00 more than a high school dropout over a lifetime. A college graduate will earn about \$1,000,000.00 more than a high school dropout 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 Parents Can 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-within 3 days of 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. **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 or phone call explaining the absence.

Within 3 days of returning to school, a student absent for more than 5 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 student's absence may be considered unexcused and, if so, would be considered to be in violation of compulsory attendance laws,

EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE:

-Religious Holy Days	-Required court appearances
-Citizenship Proceedings	-Serving as an election clerk
-Health-Care appointments	-Funerals (see principal)
-Students in Foster Care	-Therapy appointments
-Military Dependents	-Higher Education Visits
-Extenuating Circumstances: please schedule an appointment with the principal to discuss your request for an excused absence(s))	

STUDENT ATTENDANCE = STUDENT SUCCESS

STUDENT ATTENDANCE = STUDENT SUCCESS

DEFINITIONS OF ATTENDANCE VIOLATIONS

Unexcused absence: Occurs when the parent of the student fails to notify the campus of their student's whereabouts on a day of an absence, the reason reported to the campus is one that is not an exemption to compulsory attendance, or the absence is not for a reason deemed acceptable by the teacher, principal or superintendent.

Part of Day Violation: (Elementary only) When the student arrives 10 minutes late or leaves 10 minutes early or both without valid documentation excusing the violation.

MISD TRUANCY PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

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

For all Attendance Violations: The district will contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student to take care of the violation.

3rd Attendance Violation: Notice of Attendance will be mailed to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student.

4th Attendance Violation: Parent(s)/guardian(s) conference about the attendance with Campus Administrator.

5th Attendance Violation: Student Attendance Representative Conference.

6th Attendance Violation: 2nd Notice of Attendance will be mailed to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student.

8th Attendance Violation: 3rd Notice of Attendance will be mailed to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student.

10th Attendance Violation: Truancy case filed against the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student.