

## 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 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 period.

## 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  
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## **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:**

-Send your child to school every day on time, starting in Pre-kindergarten.

-Don't let your child miss school without a valid reason. Avoid medical appointments during the school day or vacations when school is in session.

-Create routines and stick to them. Make sure your child goes to bed early so that he/she will be ready to learn. Gather school clothes and supplies the night before in order to be prepared for school the next day.

-Maintain a positive attitude about school and attendance. Contact your child's school administrator regularly.

## **MINIMIZE LOSS OF INSTRUCTIONAL TIME**

- 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**

In order to receive credit or a final grade for a class, a student is required to attend class 90 percent of the days the class is offered regardless of whether the student's absences are excused or unexcused.

## **DOCUMENTATION AFTER AN ABSENCE (ALL GRADE LEVELS):**

District policy requires that all absences, tardies, and early leaves be cleared upon arrival or return to school. A note must be signed by the parent that describes the reason for the absence. A phone call from the parent may be accepted but the district reserves the right to require documentation excusing the absence. If a student is absent for more than five consecutive days the parent must provide documentation upon arrival or return to excuse the absence. The district will not accept documentation or phone calls excusing an absence after 3 school days from the absence, tardy, or early leave. A note.

## **EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE:**

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

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### **DEFINITIONS OF ATTENDANCE VIOLATIONS**

**Unexcused absence:** is an absence that occurs when the student is not present at school and the parent fails to notify the campus within three days of the absence.

**Part of Day Violation:** (Elementary only) when the student arrives 15 minutes late or leaves 15 minutes early or both without valid documentation excusing the violation.

### **MISD TRUANCY PREVENTATIVE MEASURES**

**Beginning of the school year:** Each parent and student (12 years and older) is provided a copy of the Compulsory Student Attendance Law and must acknowledge that they have read and understood the law and its contents by signing The Attendance Acknowledgement Form.

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

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

**4<sup>th</sup> Attendance Violation:** Parent(s)/Guardian(s) conference about the attendance with Campus Administrator.

**5<sup>th</sup> Attendance Violation:** Student Attendance Representative Conference.

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

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

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