

Compulsory Attendance

August 27, 2013

§25.085 Compulsory Attendance

- Age 6 (September 1) to 18 years of age.
- Applies to Extended Year Programs and After school Programs.
- Voluntary Enrollment for Pre K and Kindergarten.
- 18 year old Non-Attendance.

FEA (Legal)

- Charges may be filed in court if a student:
 - Is absent from school on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period; or is
 - Absent from school on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year.

“...parts of days...”

➤ Loss of Significant Instructional Time (LOSIT)

- If a student is habitually late or frequently leaves early, the school can take court action to ensure the child receives the maximum amount of instructional time daily. The TEC: Sec.25.094 states, “(a) An individual commits an offense if the individual fails to attend school on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year or on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period.”
- In grades Pre K – 5, “parts of days” may be defined as 15 minutes or more of instructional time throughout the day. If a student consistently misses any part of the school day including, but not limited to, coming in late or leaving early, a district attendance letter may be sent to parents warning them of possible court action if the LOSIT continues. (TEA – “egregious”)

Charges to be filed...

➤ Parent

- “Contributing to Non-Attendance”

➤ Student

- “Failure to Attend”

- If a student age 12 through age 17 violates the compulsory attendance law both the parent and the student may be charged.

Unexcused Absence

- An unexcused absence is an absence that does not fall within the state or district guidelines (excusable) or documentation was not turned in meeting the district timelines (72 hours/three school days).

Unverified Absence

- No documentation was turned in to explain the absence.

Excused Absences

- Medical illness
- Board-approved extracurricular activities
- Medical appointments, screenings, etc.
- Juvenile or other court proceedings
- Absences required by state or local welfare authorities
- Approved college visitations (Juniors and Seniors only)
- Death and/or serious illness of an immediate family member
- Religious holy days
- Family emergencies (approved by administrators)
- Weather and road conditions that make traveling dangerous
- Quarantine
- Deployment of immediate family members

FEC (Local)

- A student absent 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.
- If a student has excessive absences, the superintendent's designee, the campus attendance committee and/or the court may require a doctor's note for all future absences for the remainder of the school year. *

* School nurse may determine student's inability (illness) to attend class.

State Accountability

➤ Index 4 – Post Secondary Readiness

- DHS 92%
- RHS 94%
- GHS 96%
- FMHS 100%

- District 94%

Leavers

➤ Students Whose Whereabouts Are Unknown

- Grades 7-12
- Tracking Process

Denton Municipal Court

➤ The Honorable Robin A. Ramsay, Presiding Judge

➤ High School Attendance Issues

- DHS Jo Lorraine Thomas, Attendance Liaison
- GHS Alice Samsky, Attendance Liaison
- RHS Kim Voorheis, Attendance Liaison

Justice of the Peace

- Joe Holland, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1
- Elementary and Middle School Attendance Issues
 - Sandra Golden, Attendance Officer
 - Roberta Rosario, Attendance Officer
 - Marite Tringali, Attendance Liaison

Questions?