

- Recognized religious holidays.
- School-related activities.
- Short-term suspensions from school.

Unexcused Absences

A student will not be excused for the following reasons:

- The student does not attend school without a good reason and without the parent/guardian’s knowledge.
- The student does not attend school without a good reason and with the parent/guardian’s knowledge.
- Any reason not listed under “Excused (Lawful) Absences”.

Tardies

When a student has over 10 unexcused tardies and/ or early dismissals during the school year parents/guardians of elementary or middle school students on daily attendance will be required to complete an Intervention Plan.

3 things that every parent should know about school attendance...

- Students are more likely to succeed in academics when they attend school regularly.
- Students who attend school regularly develop skills that can be used lifelong in college, the workplace and beyond.
- Students with poor school attendance as early as the kindergarten years are more likely to drop out of school.

Office of School Social Work

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What parents need to know about

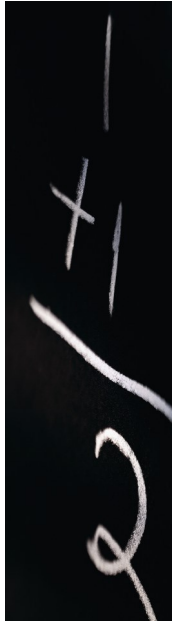
Student Attendance and Truancy



The Law and School District Policy

As a parent, you are responsible for ensuring that your child attends school every day. Therefore, it is important that you know the law and district policy regarding school attendance. In South Carolina, the compulsory School Attendance Law 59-65-10 requires children to attend school daily for the entire school day. The law applies to children who reach their 5th birthday before September 1st until they reach their 17th birthday.

In Richland County School District One, schools take daily attendance. When students accumulate three days in a row or a total of five unexcused days at any time in the school year, parents/guardians will be contacted by the school to schedule a meeting as required.



At the meeting, the parent and school staff will talk about the reasons for the absences. They will also develop an Attendance Intervention Plan. The student may also be asked to come to the meeting.

After an attendance plan is developed, if the student continues to have unexcused absences the school will complete a petition and the parent/guardian and student will be required to appear before a Judge in Family Court.



If the student is placed under a court order, the student and parent must follow all requirements of the court order. The school is required to file a contempt of court complaint if the court order is not followed. If the parent/guardian is found guilty, he/she can be fined \$50.00 and put in jail for each day that the student has an unexcused absence.

As a parent and partner with the school it is important to know the difference between an excused and unexcused absence.

Questions...

If your child is having a problem with attendance. Please call your school social worker for help in developing a solution.

Excused (Lawful) Absences

A student who is absent from school must present a note to the attendance office within 48 hours of his/her return to school. No more than 10 days of excuses, with a note written by a parent/legal guardian, can be accepted for lawful absences during any school year. Absences will be excused if they fall in the following categories:



- Cases of extended or chronic illnesses with a doctor's note.
- Doctor or dental appointments.
- Contagious illness that could spread to students and staff.
- Serious illness or death in the student's family limited to three days, unless approved by the principal. Family includes spouse, children, parents, brother/sister, grandparents, grandchildren, uncle/aunt, cousin, nephew/niece, and any relative who lives in the student's home or for whom the parent has legitimate responsibility.