



## Attendance

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We want to ensure that you are well-informed about the South Carolina Compulsory Attendance law, which plays a crucial role in your child's education. Here are some key points to keep in mind: **(This information is located on district and state sites)**

1. The South Carolina Compulsory Attendance law **SECTION 59-65-10** requires that a child attend school from the school year in which the child is five (5) years old before September 1<sup>st</sup> until the child is seventeen (17) years old.
2. A child, at least six (6) years old but not yet seventeen (17), who has three unexcused absences in a row or a total of five unexcused absences at any point in the school year is truant and in violation of the South Carolina Compulsory School Attendance Law.
3. The law also states that once a child is found to be truant, the parent/guardian must work with the school to develop an attendance plan.
4. Anytime a student is absent, the parent or guardian must provide a written note to the school explaining the absence within **48 hours (Two (2) days)** of the child returning to school.
5. Students may be referred to the school social worker or other support service staff for excessive excused/unexcused absences.
6. Parents also can check their child's attendance by logging into the Parent Portal.

**Attendance Recovery:** State law requires a minimum of 120 hours (about 5 days) of seat time for a one-credit course and 60 hours (about 2 and a half days) for half-credit courses. Any student who accumulates more than five (5) absences in a semester (0.5 credit) course, more than ten (10) absences in a year-long (1.0 credit) course, or twenty (20) absences in a 2.0 credit course is in jeopardy of not receiving credit and may instead be assigned a "Failure due to Absence (FA).

**New Policy for FAs:** *Richland One will ONLY allow students to recover missed days not to exceed 6 days in a 1 credit course and 3 days in a 0.5 credit course.*

For more information and guidance on attendance-related matters or to explore opportunities for recovering missed days and content, please do not hesitate to contact your student's administrator or school counselor. We are here to assist you and your child in finding the best solutions for their educational needs. Additionally, the NEST program provides valuable resources for content recovery, allowing students to make up for missed days or catch up on educational material. Your school's dedicated staff is ready to help you and your child navigate these options to ensure they have every opportunity for academic success.

Student Attendance Make up Program registration link

(SAMP): <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=mc2OcflqA0eiK-33pL7Y3Wp6DSNNFWRLiq4itjFvMVhUNU5DOVgxSzY1OVdYMjhUR09RRU43R0xXNi4u>