

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Did you know:



- Students absent more often in 1st grade are those who eventually drop out
- Truancy is a gateway crime to more serious juvenile offenses
- Truancy is also a precursor to dropping out of school
- The current drop out rate drains the nation of over 200 billion dollars in lost earnings
- 82% of all prison inmates are dropouts

What can Parents do?

- Understand the laws regarding truant behavior
- Check school attendance weekly on Parent Portal
- Allow children to be absent for only those reasons listed as lawful
- **Send notes to the school registrar within 3 days of the absence**



- Get children to school on-time

What happens if my child is truant?

- **Five** unlawful absences, three consecutive unlawful absences, and/or excessive tardies will result in a conference with a school administrator to develop an attendance intervention plan.
- Refusal to participate in the attendance intervention conference and then accumulating additional absences or unexcused tardies may result in a referral to family court.
- Parents convicted for educational neglect may be placed under court order, fined up to \$50 a day, and/or imprisoned for up to thirty days in jail for each unexcused absence thereafter.

Parents need to know the law and follow the law.

Attendance Policy And Laws:

Any student who accumulates more than ten absences faces the possibility of being retained.

When your child is absent you must turn in a medical note or parent note within **three** days of their return to school.

A parent note will excuse a maximum of ten days. *These notes will only be accepted if the absences are considered to be lawful.*


Absences after the tenth day must be approved by the school principal and one of the following conditions must be met:

- Absences that are excused by a doctor or other medical professional
- Death in the family
- Court appearance
- A recognized religious holiday
- Special circumstances approved in advance by the principal

If notes are not handed in within the specified time frame, your child's absences are considered unlawful.

There are serious consequences for unlawful absences.

Lawful Absences:

- Absences that are excused by a doctor or other medical professional 
- Death in the family
- A recognized religious holiday
- Special circumstances **approved in advance** by the principal *(Teachers do not have the authority to approve absences for special circumstances.)*

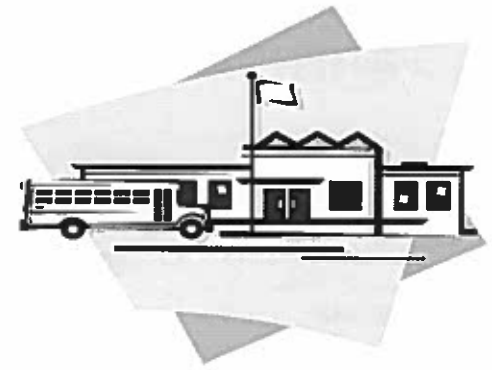
Unlawful Absences:

- An unlawful absence is any absence that is not excused under the conditions mentioned above.



Consequences:

- Students are classified truant when they have accumulated a total of three consecutive unlawful absences, five total unlawful absences, and/or excessive unexcused tardies.
- Consequences for truancy may include detention, parent conference, or in-school suspension.
- A referral to a school administrator to create an attendance intervention plan may be a consequence of truancy status.
- Refusal to participate in the attendance intervention conference and then accumulating additional absences or unexcused tardies may result in a referral to family court.
- Parents convicted for educational neglect may be placed under court order, fined up to \$50 a day, and/or imprisoned for up to thirty days in jail for each unexcused absence thereafter.



The South Carolina Department of Education and Lexington/Richland School District Five are working together to help promote daily attendance and reduce absences in schools.

