

School Success Begins with Attendance

When it comes to school, students who miss school... Miss out. They miss out on opportunities to learn, build lasting friendships, and develop the skills and attitudes needed to become good citizens and valued employees. There is a very strong connection between student attendance and student performance in school.

What happens when a student misses one day of school, for any reason?

- A student must work twice as hard for the next day to catch up on missed information and missed homework. The U.S. Department of Education maintains that for every missed day of school, it takes a student two days to catch up.
- A teacher loses class time by having to teach one student something the entire class was taught the day before, which then affects lesson plans for the next day. This impacts the entire class, not just the absent student. Now multiply this by a class of 25 over the course of a year and it impacts even the highest achievers.
- A school loses funding from the State. This could affect the ability to purchase supplies for the classroom, such as textbooks and updated computer software. Multiply this by 500 students, and it could mean the difference between hiring or laying off staff, buying new equipment, or funding a new program.
- A community loses valuable resources at a huge cost. Students who miss school challenge our community with immeasurable lost time and countless millions of dollars in human services for "repair work" in areas such as crime, counseling, and drugs.

For more complete information about AISD's attendance policies and guidelines, please talk with your child's school principal.

When Is An Absence Excused?

Here are the reasons accepted for an 'Excused' absence (to meet compulsory attendance requirements):

1. **Medical:** The student has a personal illness, doctor's appointment, or an appointment with a health care professional, and provides a note.
2. **Religious Holy Day:** The student is observing a religious holy day.
3. **Court Appearance:** The student is involved in court proceedings or is participating in an activity related to those court proceedings.
4. **College Campus Visit:** A high school junior or senior may visit a college campus two days each year of those years.
5. **Citizenship Activities:** The student is engaged in the process to secure his/her own U.S. Citizenship or participation in his/her own naturalization ceremony; serves as an election clerk, or participates in a military funeral by playing Taps.
6. **Military Dependent:** Student has a parent or legal guardian who is an active duty military member who has been called for deployment, is on leave from, or immediately returned from a combat zone or combat support posting.
7. **Pre-Approved Reason:** A student may be excused for a temporary absence with prior approval of the child's principal. This includes (but not limited to) field trips, mentorship for Distinguished Achievement Program, Class offered by TSBVI, Department of Family and Protective Services Appointment.
8. **Dual Credit/Full-Time TxVSN:** The student is attending an off campus dual credit course or is participating in a Texas Virtual School Network program full-time.

A U S T I N I N D E P E N D E N T S C H O O L D I S T R I C T

Learn more about AISD's attendance campaign at
www.austinisd.org/everydaycounts

every day counts

