

NOTICE: LAWS GOVERNING COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE IN TEXAS SCHOOLS

Failure to comply with the laws governing compulsory attendance may result in legal action.

OFFICIAL NOTICE TO THE CHILD AND PERSON(S) STANDING IN PARENTAL RELATION TO THE CHILD

Texas requires a child who is at least 6 years of age, or who is younger than 6 years of age and has previously been enrolled in first grade, and who has **not yet reached his/her 19th birthday** to attend school unless exempt by Sec. 25.086. Upon enrollment in pre-kindergarten or kindergarten, a child shall attend school. A person who voluntarily enrolls in school or voluntarily attends school after the person's 19th birthday shall attend school each school day for the entire period the program of instruction is offered and is subject to the same requirements for compulsory attendance for students under 19 years of age. **TEC Sections 25.085, 25.086**

A parent/guardian commits an offense of Parent Contributing to Non –Attendance under TEC Sec. 25.093, if, after having been warned in writing, a child has **unexcused** voluntary absences from school on **10 or more days or parts of days within a 6-month period**. An offense under the Subsection (a) is a misdemeanor, punishable by fine only, in an amount not to exceed:

- (1) \$100.00 for a first offense;
- (2) \$200.00 for a second offense;
- (3) \$300.00 for a third offense;
- (4) \$400.00 for a fourth offense or
- (5) \$500.00 for a fifth or subsequent offense. **TEC 25.093/Family Code 65.003(a)**

A "failure to attend school" violation by a student may be referred to truancy court. On a finding that the child has engaged in truant conduct, a justice or municipal court may order: **1)** The child to attend GED preparatory classes; **2)** the child to attend a special program that the court determines to be in the best interest of the child, including an alcohol/drug abuse program; **3)** rehabilitation; **4)** counseling, including self-improvement counseling; **5)** training in self-esteem and leadership; **6)** work and job skills training; **7)** training in parenting. Including parental responsibility; **8)** training in manners; **9)** training in violence avoidance; **10)** sensitivity training; **11)** the child and the child's parent/guardian attend a class for student at risk of dropping out of school; **12)** a program that provides training in advocacy and mentoring; **13)** complete not more than 50 hours of community service on a project acceptable to the court, and **14)** participate for a specified number of hours in a tutorial program covering the academic subjects in which the child is enrolled that are provided by the school the child attends. **Family Code 65.003(a)/Education Code 25.085**

A student who has not been in attendance for **ninety (90)** percent of the days the class is offered shall not be awarded credit or a final grade except in a course designated by the superintendent as having innovative instructional arrangements. When a student's attendance drops below 90 percent but remains at least at 75 percent of the days the class is offered, the student may earn credit for the class or a final grade by completing a plan approved by the principal. If the student fails to successfully complete the plan, or when a student's attendance drops below 75 percent of the days the class is offered, the student or parent may request award of credit or a final grade by submitting a written petition to the campus attendance committee. This restriction does not affect a student's right to excused absences to observe religious holy days [see FEA] and does not apply to a student who receives credit by examination for a class as provided by Education Code 28.023. [See EHDC]

A parent/guardian of a school age child has the responsibility to require their child attend school regularly. When sickness or higher obligation necessitate an absence, a note signed by a parent/guardian explaining the reason for the absence is required within 3 school days of when the student returns to school. If the student fails to submit a note, the absence will be considered unexcused. **EC.25.093 FEB (Regulation)**

A child not exempt from compulsory attendance laws may be excused for temporary absence resulting from any usual cause acceptable to the campus administrator of the school in which the student is enrolled. A temporary absence may be the result of , but not limited to: **1)** personal illness, **2)** family emergency, **3)** religious holy day, **4)** documented juvenile court proceeding, **5)** board-approved extracurricular activity or **6)** approved college visitation. **PISD Policy FEA (Legal)**

When a student's absence for personal illness exceeds seven (7) consecutive days, the principal may require a statement from a physician or health clinic verifying the illness or other condition requiring the student's extended absence from school. (The school nurse is available to verify an illness the day of the absence). The attendance committee may, if the student has established a questionable pattern of absences, also require a physician's or clinic's statement of illness after a single day's absence as a condition of classifying the absence as one for which there are extenuating circumstances. **Plano ISD Policy FEC (Local) Personal Illness**

Absences such as vacations and trips (except those excused by the principal for unusual circumstances), babysitting, working (including modeling), and non-school-sponsored athletic events and programs shall be considered unexcused. PISD Policy FED (Legal) / Education Code 25.087

Please sign the ACKNOWLEDGEMENT below, and return the signed original to your child's school. If you have any questions, you may contact the school your child is attending.

*I have received information governing compulsory attendance. My signature is only as acknowledgment that I have received this Notice

Student's Name	Grade	ID#	←
Mother / Guardian Signature	Home Phone#	Work Phone#	
Father / Guardian Signature	Home Phone#	Work Phone#	
Student Signature	Date		
Office Use Only			
Principal Designee	School	Date	