

Dear Bethany Families,

Bethany consistently updates our families about PISD attendance guidelines. Each family has already returned a signed Warning Notice/Truancy Form as well as received a letter from me in the Back to School packet.

However, there has been a **Major Change in Compulsory Attendance Law**. House Bill 1575 includes major revisions of the Family Code as it relates to juveniles, and a few minor revisions to the education code which affect us as follows:

***Section 37, Section 25.0951, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:***

***If a student fails to attend school without excuse on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, a school district shall within seven school days of the student's last absence:***

- ***file a complaint against the student or the student's parent or both in a county, justice, or municipal court for an offense under Section 25.093 or 25.094, as appropriate, or refer the student to a juvenile court in a county with a population of less than 100,000 for conduct that violates Section 25.094: or***
- ***refer the student to a juvenile court for conduct indicating a need for supervision under Section 51.03(b)(2), Family Code.***
- ***(d) A court shall dismiss a complaint or referral made by a school district under this section that is not made in compliance with this section.***

Please remember to do the following when your child is absent for any reason:

1. Call the Bethany Childsafe Hotline at 469-752-0300 to report student absences/tardies.
2. Send a parent note in through your child that states the reason for the absence. Write it per the attention of Leigh Anne Hickman, our attendance clerk and secretary.
- 3.

These are the guidelines our staff follows when monitoring all student tardies/absences:

1. The teacher will make a call home after the third tardy/or three UNEXCUSED absences.
2. A letter will be sent home to the parent by the office on the fourth tardy.
3. A **second letter** will be sent home by the office after the sixth tardy.
4. District will be notified to file truancy when the three above steps have been taken and the student has reached ten tardies. Regarding absences please refer to your copy of the Warning Notice/Truancy Guidelines.

Parents can help their children be on time for school using these suggestions:

1. Have backpacks ready the night before and placed by the door they use to leave the house each morning.
2. Have lunches prepared the night before.
3. Pick out clothes/shoes to wear the night before.
4. Do not turn on the TV in the mornings.
5. Talk as a family about the importance of being on time.
6. Parents, model for your children being on time and being prepared for each day.

Thank you for your continued assistance in partnering with our school to make Bethany students successful!