



# A PARENT'S QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO STUDENT ATTENDANCE FOR 2020-2021

*Strong and consistent student attendance is directly related to academic achievement.  
 State law requires all children between the ages of 6 and 19 years of age to  
 be enrolled in school. Our school district has high attendance standards.*

## BISD'S STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Student attendance goals are:  
**Elementary Schools...97.5%,  
 Middle School...97%, & High School...96%.**

## A STUDENT IS TRUANT DUE TO UNEXCUSED ABSENCES IF HE/SHE

Is absent 10 or more days or parts of days within  
 a 6 month period in the same school year.

**As per state law:** (1) It is the parent's duty to  
 monitor the student's attendance and require  
 the student to attend school (either in person  
 or virtually). (2) The parent may be subject  
 to criminal prosecution. (3) A conference  
 between school officials and a parent to discuss  
 excessive absences will be required.

A student who violates compulsory attendance  
 laws may be subject to truancy court by  
 the process of a referral where court costs,  
 community service and other remedial orders  
 may be assigned.

## ATTENDANCE LIMITS

**Elementary Schools:** 18 days per year

**Middle Schools:** 8 days first semester,  
 10 days second semester

**Early College High Schools:** 8 days first semester,  
 10 days second semester

## ATTENDANCE FOR CREDIT

Any student with less than 90 percent attendance  
 for the days the class is offered shall be subject  
 to loss of credit in the course(s) where excessive  
 absences have been recorded according to Policy  
 FEC (Legal). Simply, a student may lose credit in  
 a class whether he/she is passing or not, if he/she  
 is absent over the limit.

A student can submit an appeal in writing to the  
 campus administration requesting removal of  
 the "NO CREDIT" status. The student may be  
 asked to make up work and time and no longer be  
 absent as part of the conditions. A committee will  
 review each case based on phone calls and written  
 documentation of absences reported. For details,  
 call your campus administrator.

## EXCUSED ABSENCES

As per policy FEA (Legal), the District shall excuse  
 a student from attending school for the following  
 purposes:

▶ **Religious Holy Days** – One day of excused  
 travel for traveling to and from the site where  
 the student will observe holy days.

▶ **Court Appearances** – One day of excused  
 travel for traveling to and from the site where  
 the student will attend required court  
 appearance.

▶ **Citizenship Proceedings** – Appearing at  
 a government office to complete citizenship  
 proceedings.

▶ **Election Clerks** – Serving as an election  
 clerk or student early voting clerk, maximum 2  
 days per year.

▶ **Health Care Appointments** – Temporary  
 absence resulting from an appointment with a  
 health care professional if the student  
 commences classes or returns to school on the  
 same day of appointment.

▶ **Campus Visits** – To visit an institution of  
 higher education during student's junior and  
 senior year of high school, maximum 2 days  
 per year.

▶ **Military** – Children of military personnel  
 who will be or have been deployed within 60  
 days before deployment or up to 30 days after  
 arrival date, maximum 5 days per year.

▶ **Military Enlistment** – Student pursuing enlist-  
 ments in the military, maximum 4 days per year.

For more information, call the BISD Pupil Services Department at **(956) 544-3966.**

Revised 8/20

