Lyon County School District

Student Attendance Information

Regular Attendance is Key to a Successful School Experience

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

We are unable to teach our students if they are not present at school. Regular attendance is vital to a student's academic success. As a parent, making regular school attendance a priority for your child will help your student be successful academically and to teach them a valuable life lesson. Consistently attending school will greatly improve your child's likelihood of graduating on time.

IT IS THE LAW!

The state of Kentucky has a compulsory attendance law. KRS 159.010 requires that all children between the ages of six (6) and eighteen (18) attend school.

TRUANCY

Kentucky statute KRS 159.150 defines truancy. If a student accumulates three (3) unexcused events (absence or tardy to school), the student is declared truant. If a student accumulates six (6) unexcused events, the student is declared habitually truant and legal action against the parent/guardian and/or the student may be taken. Parents/guardians may be charged with Educational Neglect for failing to ensure regular attendance by their minor child(ren). This can result in a substantial fine and court cost for the parent/guardian.

Parent Notes

Parents/guardians are limited to five (5) parent notes per year. This change takes effect at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. If your child is absent from school, but does not have an excuse as outlined in the school's student handbook, the parent/guardian may submit a written note excusing the student's absence(s) for up to five absences or tardy to school.

Please be aware that only part of the day may be excused with a note from a dentist, orthodontist, eye doctor, court, etc. depending on time of appointment and travel time. Any note excusing an absence or tardy must be submitted within five days of the absence event. All absence events are recorded as unexcused until the school attendance clerk receives a legitimate note excusing the event. It is the parent/guardians responsibility to ensure the office receives a note.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

- Try to schedule appointments, such as dental, optometrist, orthodontist, and other non-emergency appointments, after school or during scheduled school breaks. If you must schedule an appointment during the school day, please make an effort to schedule it as early or as late as possible in order for your child to attend school for the majority of the day.
- Always send a written and signed note or documentation any time your child is tardy, checks out early or is absent from school.
- Absence documentation (note) is due on the day the student returns to school. You have a five (5) day grace period to submit the documentation. After the five day grace period, the absence will be considered unexcused.

Home/Hospital Instruction

If a student anticipates being absent for more than five days of school due to surgery, illness, accident, etc., parents are encouraged to contact the school or the Director of Pupil Personnel. Parents will be provided a Home/Hospital application that must be endorsed by your medical provider. Once the application is returned to the school and approved, the school district will provide in-home (in person or electronically) instruction twice every five days of school.

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Students who have missed ten percent (10%) or more of the school year are considered Chronically Absent. Chronic Absenteeism has been proven to have a significant impact on student success in the school setting. Please see the graphic listed below and share the information with your child. Should you or your child face truancy related charges in court, chronic absenteeism information will be shared with the County Attorney.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, AND IT IS MANDATED BY LAW!

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CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM FACTS

Chronic absenteeism is widely defined as missing 10 percent or more of school days in a school year for any reason, including excused and unexcused absences. This can translate into missing

15 or more

days per year or 3 days per month.

Students who are chronically absent in preschool, kindergarten, and first grade are much less likely to read at grade level by third grade—which would make them

4 times

more likely to drop out of high school than proficient readers.

It starts early. More than

10 percent

of kindergartners and first graders are chronically absent.

A student who is chronically absent any year between grades 8 and 12 is more than

7 times

more likely to drop out.

On average, a college graduate is likely to live about

9 years

longer than someone who has not completed high school.