

Parents, You Play a Vital Role in Your Child's School Success

- ◆ Create many opportunities for learning. Make reading a part of your home life. Take advantage of what your school and community offers. Show your child that education is important.
- ◆ Be consistent and set limits. Monitor your child's activities such as browsing the internet, watching TV, playing video games, hanging out with friends, etc. Be aware of their homework assignments.
- ◆ Talk to your child every day. Ask specific questions about school and afterschool activities. Please note that a school counselor or school social worker are available as a resource.
- ◆ Stay involved and be supportive. Set clear and high expectations. Remember to offer encouragement and praise. Find ways to reward your child's accomplishments.



VISION & MISSION STATEMENT

Create life-long learners prepared for an ever-changing global society.

Volusia County Schools will ignite a passion for learning in all students to be productive citizens.



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FLORIDA'S COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW



Your
Pathway
to Understanding

School District Expectations

Regular school attendance is critical to a child's success in school. We know that parents share our dream of helping children to be the best that they can be. If we work together, this dream can and will become a reality.



- ◆ All children should be in school and on time each day.
- ◆ When a child must miss school due to illness or other family emergency, the parent must contact the school on the date of the illness or emergency to report the absence.
- ◆ Parents should attend parent-teacher conferences to stay involved with their child's academics and monitor their attendance.
- ◆ If the child refuses to attend school, or skips school without the parent's knowledge, the parents should call the school to report the absence, as soon as they know about it. In such instances, school personnel will work with you and your child to get him/her back into regular school attendance.
- ◆ After 15 absences, parents must provide a doctor's note to excuse further absences due to illness.

Florida State Law Requirements

The Florida Legislature finds that "poor academic performance is associated with nonattendance and that schools must take an active role in enforcing attendance as a means of improving the performance of many students." (F.S. 1003.26)

- ◆ All children between the ages of 6 and 16 must attend school regularly. A student over the age of 16 is subject to compulsory attendance unless the student completes a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment with the school district. The declaration must be signed by the student and the parent. The school counselor or other school personnel must conduct an exit interview and survey with the student to determine the reasons for their decision to terminate school enrollment.
- ◆ Parents are legally responsible for their children's attendance.
- ◆ After 5 unexcused absences within a calendar month or 10 unexcused absences within 90 days, the school's child study team may review the attendance to determine if early patterns of truancy are developing.
- ◆ If the child study team determines that a pattern of truancy is developing, a meeting with the parents must be scheduled to identify potential remedies.

- ◆ If parents choose not to participate in the strategies recommended by the child study team, because they believe the strategies are unnecessary or inappropriate, they may appeal to the District School Board. If the District School Board's final determination is that the strategies of the child study team are appropriate, the parents are expected to cooperate.
- ◆ If a child accumulates a minimum of 15 unexcused absences within 90 days, it is a violation of the Compulsory School Attendance Law. Florida law also allows district school boards to establish policies that allow accumulated unexcused tardies, regardless of when they occur during the school day, and early checkouts to be recorded as unexcused absences. An accumulation of excessive unexcused tardies or early checkouts may therefore result in a violation of the Compulsory School Attendance Law.
- ◆ In the event that the truancy continues and the parents remain uncooperative, the District School Superintendent may seek legal action against the parents.

