South Carolina Compulsory Attendance Law

SC Code of Law 59-65-10
"South Carolina Compulsory Attendance Law requires that a parent or guardian shall require his child to attend regularly a public or private school or kindergarten of this State which has been approved by the State Board of Education, a member school of the South Carolina Independent Schools and Association, a member school of the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools, or some similar organization, or a parochial, denominational, or church-related school, or other programs which have been approved by the State Board of Education from the school year in which the child is five years of age before September first until the child attains his seventeenth birthday or graduates from high school."

Lawful Absences

- Absences caused by a student's own illness and whose attendance in school would endanger his or her health or the health of others,
- Absences due to an illness or death in the student's immediate family,
- Absences due to a recognized religious holiday of the student's faith, and
- Absences due to activities that are approved in advance by the principal.

Unlawful Absences

- Absences of a student without the knowledge of his or her parents, and
- Absences of a student without acceptable cause with the knowledge of his or her parents.

Note! Suspension is not to be counted as an unlawful absence for truancy purposes.

Orangeburg Wilkinson High School

Address- 601 Bruin Parkway

Orangeburg, SC 29118

Phone number- 803-534-6180

Website:
ocsdsc.org/orangeburgwilkinsonhs







Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School

Attendance Brochure



Truancy

Truant: A child age 6 to 17 years meets the definition of a truant when the child has three consecutive unlawful absences or a total of five unlawful absences.

Habitual Truant: A "habitual" truant is a child age 12 to 17 years who fails to comply with the intervention plan developed by the school, the child, and the parent(s) or guardian(s) and who accumulates two or more additional unlawful absences. This child may need court intervention and an initial truancy petition may be filed.

Chronic Truant: A "chronic" truant is a child age 12 to 17 years who has been through the school intervention process, has reached the level of a "habitual" truant, has been referred to Family Court and placed on an order to attend school, and continues to accumulate unlawful absences. Should other community alternatives and referrals fail to remedy the attendance problem, the "chronic" truant may be referred to the Family Court for violation of a previous court order.

Excuses

All medical, parent notes, any other excuses and obituaries MUST be turned in within 3 days of the student returning to school.

If you would like to email an excuse, please do so at kimberly.cross@ocsdsc.org

The board designates the principal of the school to promptly approve or disapprove any student's absence of more than ten (10) days in a school year.

OCSD Board Policy

The board expects children to attend school regularly. Regular attendance is necessary if students are to make the desired and expected academic and social progress. In order to receive one Carnegie unit of credit, a student must be in attendance at least 120 hours, per unit, regardless of the number of days missed.



Attendance Everyday Matters

Attendance Intervention Plan (AIP)

In order to encourage and assist students in attending school regularly, the administration will administer the appropriate intervention procedures. Once a student is determined to be truant, school officials will make every reasonable effort to meet with the parent/legal guardian to identify the reasons for the student's continued absence, including telephone calls, home visits, written messages, and emails. A written intervention plan will be developed by school administrators in conjunction with the student and the parent/legal guardian.

Refusal by the parent/legal guardian to cooperate with school intervention plans can result in a referral of the student to family court and the filing of a report against the parent/legal guardian with the South Carolina Department of Social Services in accordance with law.