

Trigg County Schools

Student Attendance Information

Attendance Matters

Students are required and expected to attend regularly and punctually to school in order to maximize the benefits of the instructional program and to develop habits of punctuality, self-discipline, and responsibility.

Excused Absences/ Tardies

Absences will be calculated on a percentage basis. If a pupil misses less than 35% of a school day they will be considered tardy. If a pupil misses 35% or more of a school day they will be considered absent. Notes will be accepted for ten (10) absences or tardies per school year. Any absences/tardies above ten (10) per year will require medical verification in the form of the Medical Excuse Form 09.123 AP.2.

Absences or Tardies that will not count towards the ten (10) notes include: court appearances, driver's test, parental military leave departure/return, basic training, and funerals. If you experience other extenuating circumstances, please contact your child's school.



It is the Law!

Kentucky school law stipulates that students are to attend school (KRS 159.010 and KRS 159.150). Any student who has attained the age of six (6), but has not reached his/her eighteenth (18th) birthday, who has been absent from school without a valid excuse for three (3) days or more, or tardy without a valid excuse on three (3) days or more, is a truant. Any student enrolled in a public school who has attained the age of eighteen (18) years, but has not reached his/her twenty-first (21st) birthday, who has been absent from school without a valid excuse for three (3) or more days, or tardy without valid excuse for three (3) or more days, is a truant. Any student who has been reported as a truant two (2) or more times is a habitual truant.

What Can Parents Do?

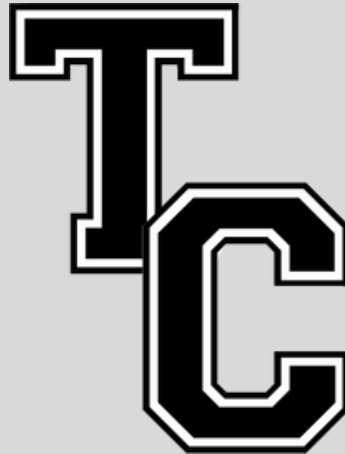
- Talk to your child about showing up to school every day and on time.
- Try to schedule appointments, such as therapy, dental, optometrist, orthodontist, and other non-emergency appointments after school, or during scheduled breaks. If you must schedule an appointment during the school day, please make an effort to schedule it as early or late in the school day as possible in order for your child to attend school for the majority of the school day.
- Always send a written and signed note or Medical Excuse Form 09.123 AP.2 any time your child is absent or tardy. This documentation is due within three (3) days of the student's return to school. After the three (3) days, the absence or tardy will be considered unexcused.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Check your child's attendance in Infinite Campus often, to be sure absences or tardies are not adding up.
- Seek assistance from school staff if you need support.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, children who are chronically absent in preschool, kindergarten, and 1st grade are less likely to read at grade level by the 3rd grade.

Chronic Absenteeism

Students who miss ten percent (10%) or more of a school year for any reason including excused absences, unexcused absences, and suspensions are considered chronically absent. Chronic Absenteeism has been proven to have a significant impact on student success.

A student who is chronically absent any year between 8th and 12th grade is more than **7 times** more likely to drop out of high school.



Good School Attendance Means:

- Elementary Students read well by third grade.
- Middle School Students pass important courses.
- High Schoolers stay on track for graduation.
- College Students earn their degrees.
- Workers succeed in their jobs.

Myth 1 - If my child is tardy it will count as a whole day absence.

False - A tardy is less than 35% of the school day, which is roughly 2 hours and 15 minutes. Any combination of checking in late or checking out early less than 35% of the day is considered a tardy. For the tardy to be excused parents/guardians must use one of the ten (10) notes allowed per year.

Myth 2 - It is okay for my child to be absent from school 1 or 2 days a month.

False - Missing 1 or 2 school days a month over the course of the school year may make your child "Chronically Absent".

**Every Minute Matters
Attend Today,
Achieve
Tommorrow!**