



## Waco ISD Attendance Information

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Re: Understanding School Attendance under Texas State Law

Waco ISD is dedicated to helping your child achieve academic success. In order to maximize your child's academic opportunities, it is critical that they be in attendance at school every day. For your information, we have outlined the district procedures / policies and state laws related to attendance. We hope that this information is helpful to you and look forward to spending every instructional day possible with your child.

### **Compulsory Attendance Law (TEC Section 25.085)**

- Students who are at least six years old as of September 1 of the school year are required to attend school through their 19th birthday. Students who are enrolled in prekindergarten or kindergarten shall attend school.
- Students who are 19 years old or older are required to attend each school day for the entire period of time the program of instruction is offered for which the student is enrolled.

### **Compulsory Attendance Enforcement (TEC Section 25.095)**

- Warning Notices will be made (in person or by mail) when a student has been absent from school, without excuse, on 3 days or parts of days within a 4-week period.
- Students may not be absent from school for 10 or more days or parts of days within a 6-month period.
- Truancy Prevention Measures (TPMs) will be implemented under Section 25.0915 to increase attendance and help to minimize the need for referrals to truancy court.
- State law requires that a school district may file a complaint in a truancy court against the parent and/or student in violation of the compulsory attendance laws, Section 25.093. Each offense carries up to a \$500 fine per occurrence.

### **Ninety Percent Attendance Rules (TEC Section 25.092)**

- In order to be granted credit or a final grade for a course or be promoted to the next grade level, a student in any grade level from kindergarten through grade 12 must attend at least 90% of the days the class is offered.
- If a student is in attendance for a course at least 75 percent but less than 90 percent of the days a class is offered, the student may be given an opportunity to regain credit by completing a plan approved by the principal that provides for the student to meet the instructional requirements of the class.



The following are excusable absences under TEC Section 25.087 but still require documentation:

1. Health appointments when the student returns to school the same day
2. Visitation with a family member who is on leave from active duty in the military
3. Religious holidays
4. Court appearances
5. College visitations
6. Naturalization/Citizenship appointments
7. Election Clerk Service
8. Grade 6-12 student who plays "Taps" at a military veteran's funeral

Waco ISD understands there are times when your child will be absent. Documentation is required when this occurs. Notes are due the day the student returns to school. Any absence without a note will be unexcused after one week.

**Texas law requires you to monitor your student's attendance and requires your student to attend school.** Waco ISD makes monitoring attendance and grades very simple through the [Parent Portal](#). This parent resource is available online. For complete information on [Parent Portal](#), log on to [www.wacoisd.org](http://www.wacoisd.org) select the parent portal tab in blue, and follow instructions to register for this program.

Any additional resources or questions about attendance please contact your campus Principal, [Parent Campus Liaisons](#), [District Truancy Prevention Facilitators](#) or visit the [Student Services and Support website](#).