

SOUTH CAROLINA TRUANCY LAW

South Carolina State Law requires a student under the age of seventeen (17) to attend school regularly.

Upon three (3) consecutive or five (5) total unlawful absences for the school year, attendance personnel will attempt to establish contact with the parent to arrange a mandatory Attendance Intervention Plan (AIP) conference to develop a written plan regarding future attendance.

If a student is absent unlawfully from school after the AIP conference, the student will be referred to the Districts Attendance Coordinator. The Attendance Coordinator will refer the student to family court for truancy to obtain a motion for court-ordered attendance.

Parents and students should realize that time made-up in attendance make up sessions does not erase absences from truancy purposes.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY!

ATTENDANCE CONTACT



DeAnna Zirkelbach,
Attendance Clerk



DZirkelbach@horrycountyschools.net



843-650-2448 direct
843-650-5600 main
843-650-1004 fax



10800 Highway 707
Murrells Inlet SC 29576



sjh.horrycountyschools.net

SC DRIVER LICENSE STUDENT ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

A student's attendance must be in compliance with the Truancy Law in order to receive the required paperwork for obtaining a driver's license. The state of South Carolina requires you to be enrolled in school (not suspended or expelled), and you have satisfactory attendance.

Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail with any questions.



ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

2024 - 2025

St. James High School
10800 Highway 707
Murrells Inlet, SC
29576

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Consistent school attendance is critical for student achievement. If students are not present, they cannot benefit from classroom instruction. State attendance laws require student attendance for course credit and grade level promotion. Additionally, state attendance laws require intervention when a student is deemed truant. State law requires a parent to cause his/her child(ren), from age five (5) until the attainment of their seventeenth (17) birthday or graduation from high school, to attend regularly a public or private school.

Excused Absences

- An absence is considered excused if a valid medical doctors written note (with the date & time the student was seen) is provided within three (3) school days after the absence.
- An absence for bereavement, due to a death in the student's immediate family, may be excused in of obituary or program of the service verifying the death is provided to the attendance clerk within three days after the absence.
- An absence for a nationally recognized religious holiday of the student's faith may be excused if a request is made in writing to the principal and written approval is received prior to the absence.

Parents ultimately have the discretion to keep a child home from school; However, parents must consider that students are required to be in attendance a minimum of 170 days per year. Attendance information is provided quarterly on each academic report card. It is suggested that parents and students keep a calendar and record absences/tardies on that calendar so that you may verify attendance records as they are given. It is also recommended that parents and students take a picture and/or make a copy of all medical excuses submitted to the attendance office for future reference.

REMINDERS

- Parents should not plan for their child to be absent for three (3) or more consecutive days of school without a medical excuse
- School calendars are available to help parents plan family vacations on non-school days so that SC attendance laws are not compromised
- All attendance and early dismissal excuses must be presented to the front desk before 8:15 am each morning

- Students are counted present only when they are physically at school, on homebound instruction, or complete virtual check in on hybrid days and participate virtually on Friday
- Classes will not be interrupted for early dismissals except in extreme emergencies; when possible, please plan early dismissal to coincide with the bell schedule *All early dismissals are subject to parental verification*
- No dismissals are allowed from 2:45 to 3:15 pm
- Students who are absent are required to make up all missed work, all missed work for unlawful absences must be submitted to the teacher
- Please email or call the attendance office if your child is going to be absent from school



POWERSCHOOL

Parents and students should monitor attendance records regularly. parents and students have access to attendance in PowerSchool. PowerSchool also allows access to grades, attendance, and discipline. Parents are strongly encouraged to obtain a password from Donna Annunziato, the Data Quality Clerk.



TUTORING/CREDIT RECOVERY

Tutoring will be offered each semester for students who need to make up a minimum of three (3) absences or classwork for classes missed. During schoolwide tutoring sessions, students are required to complete classwork missed. Time earned during tutoring may be used as make up time. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to communicate with each teacher for missing assignments.

Please see the school website and social media for dates and times.

CREDIT PROMOTION VS TRUANCY



Credit Promotion Law

In order to receive credit for a class, students may not miss over five (5) unexcused or unverified class periods of a subject in a one semester/term course or over ten (10) unverified class periods in a yearlong course.



Truancy Law

A student under the age of 17 who missed three (3) unexcused consecutive days or five (5) unexcused total days within a school year is deemed truant and will be placed on an Attendance Intervention Plan (AIP).