

Educ. Code Section 25.087

Excused Absences

(a)

A person required to attend school, including a person required to attend school under Section [25.085 \(Compulsory School Attendance\)](#)(e), may be excused for temporary absence resulting from any cause acceptable to the teacher, principal, or superintendent of the school in which the person is enrolled.

(b)

A school district shall excuse a student from attending school for:

(1)

the following purposes, including travel for those purposes:

(A)

observing religious holy days;

(B)

attending a required court appearance;

(C)

appearing at a governmental office to complete paperwork required in connection with the student's application for United States citizenship;

(D)

taking part in a United States naturalization oath ceremony;

(E)

serving as an election clerk; **or**

(F)

if the student is in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services, participating, as determined and documented by the department, in an activity:

(i)

ordered by a court under Chapter [262 \(Procedures in Suit by Governmental Entity to Protect Health and Safety of Child\)](#) or [263 \(Review of Placement of Children Under Care of Department of Family and Protective Services\)](#), Family Code, provided that it is not practicable to schedule the participation outside of school hours; **or**

(ii)

required under a service plan under Subchapter [B \(Department to File Service Plan\)](#), Chapter [263 \(Review of Placement of Children Under Care of Department of Family and Protective Services\)](#), Family Code;

(2)

a temporary absence resulting from an appointment with health care professionals for the student or the student's child if the student commences classes or returns to school on the same day of the appointment; **or**

(3)

an absence resulting from a serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment that makes the student's attendance infeasible, if the student or the student's parent or guardian provides a certification from a physician licensed to practice medicine in this state specifying the student's illness and the anticipated period of the student's absence relating to the illness or related treatment.

(b-1)

A school district may adopt a policy excusing a student from attending school for service as a student early voting clerk in an election.

(b-2)

A school district may excuse a student from attending school to visit an institution of higher education accredited by a generally recognized accrediting organization during the student's junior and senior years of high school for the purpose of determining the student's interest in attending the institution of higher education, provided that:

(1)

the district may not excuse for this purpose more than two days during the student's junior year and two days during the student's senior year; **and**

(2)

the district adopts:

(A)

a policy to determine when an absence will be excused for this purpose; **and**

(B)

a procedure to verify the student's visit at the institution of higher education.

(b-3)

A temporary absence for purposes of Subsection (b)(2) includes the temporary absence of a student diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder on the day of the student's appointment with a health care practitioner, as described by Section [1355.015 \(Required Coverage for Certain Enrollees\)](#)(b), Insurance Code, to receive a generally recognized service for persons with autism spectrum disorder, including applied behavioral analysis, speech therapy, and occupational therapy.

(b-4)

A school district shall excuse a student whose parent, stepparent, or legal guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services as defined by Section [162.002 \(Execution of Compact\)](#) and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from

continuous deployment of at least four months outside the locality where the parent, stepparent, or guardian regularly resides, to visit with the student's parent, stepparent, or guardian. A school district may not excuse a student under this subsection more than five days in a school year. An excused absence under this subsection must be taken:

(1)

not earlier than the 60th day before the date of deployment; **or**

(2)

not later than the 30th day after the date of return from deployment.

(b-5)

A school district shall excuse a student who is 17 years of age or older from attending school to pursue enlistment in a branch of the armed services of the United States or the Texas National Guard, provided that:

(1)

the district may not excuse for this purpose more than four days of school during the period the student is enrolled in high school; **and**

(2)

the district verifies the student's activities related to pursuing enlistment in a branch of the armed services or the Texas National Guard.

(b-6)

Each school district shall adopt procedures to verify a student's activities as described by Subsection (b-5).

(b-7)

A school district may excuse a student who is 15 years of age or older from attending school to visit a driver's license office to obtain a driver's license or learner license, provided that:

(1)

the district may not excuse more than one day of school during the period the student is enrolled in high school for each of the following purposes:

(A)

obtaining a driver's license; **or**

(B)

obtaining a learner license; **and**

(2)

the district verifies the student's visit to the driver's license office in accordance with procedures adopted by the district.

(b-8)

A school district may excuse a student from attending school for a career investigation day to visit a professional at the professional's workplace during the student's junior and senior

years of high school for the purpose of determining the student's interest in pursuing a career in the professional's field, provided that:

(1)

the district may not excuse for this purpose more than two days during the student's junior year and two days during the student's senior year; **and**

(2)

the district adopts:

(A)

a policy to determine when an absence may be excused for this purpose; **and**

(B)

a procedure to verify the student's visit at the professional's workplace.

(c)

A school district may excuse a student in grades 6 through 12 for the purpose of sounding "Taps" at a military honors funeral held in this state for a deceased veteran.

(d)

A student whose absence is excused under Subsection (b), (b-1), (b-2), (b-4), (b-5), (b-7), (b-8), or (c) may not be penalized for that absence and shall be counted as if the student attended school for purposes of calculating the average daily attendance of students in the school district. A student whose absence is excused under Subsection (b), (b-1), (b-2), (b-4), (b-5), (b-7), (b-8), or (c) shall be allowed a reasonable time to make up school work missed on those days. If the student satisfactorily completes the school work, the day of absence shall be counted as a day of compulsory attendance.

(e)

A school district may excuse a student for the purposes provided by Subsections (b)(1)(E) and (b-1) for a maximum of two days in a school year.

(f)

For purposes of excusing a student from attending school to observe a religious holy day under Subsection (b)(1)(A), a school district:

(1)

may not require documentation from a clergy member or other religious leader; **and**

(2)

shall accept a note from the student's parent or person standing in parental relation verifying the purpose of the student's absence.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995. Amended by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 651, Sec. 1, eff. June 18, 1999; Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 711, Sec. 2, eff. June 18, 1999. Amended by: Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 479 (H.B. [2455](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 16, 2007. Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 660 (H.B. [1187](#)), Sec. 2, eff. June 15, 2007. Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 87 (S.B. [1969](#)), Sec. 7.002(a), eff. September 1, 2009. Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 87 (S.B. [1969](#)), Sec. 7.002(b), eff. September 1, 2009. Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 455 (H.B. [2542](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 19, 2009. Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 455 (H.B. [2542](#)), Sec. 2, eff. June 19, 2009. Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 517 (S.B. [1134](#)), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2009. Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 595 (H.B. [192](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 19, 2009. Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 91 (S.B. [1303](#)), Sec. 7.005, eff. September 1, 2011. Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 249 (H.B. [455](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013. Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 404 (S.B. [260](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013. Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 542 (S.B. [553](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013. Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 688 (H.B. [2619](#)), Sec. 11, eff. September 1, 2013. Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1354 (S.B. [1404](#)), Sec. 2, eff. June 14, 2013. Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 944 (S.B. [206](#)), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2015. Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 213 (S.B. [1152](#)), Sec. 1, eff. May 28, 2017. Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 314 (H.B. [699](#)), Sec. 2, eff. June 7, 2021. Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 553 (S.B. [289](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2021. Acts 2023, 88th Leg., R.S., Ch. 193 (S.B. [68](#)), Sec. 1, eff. May 24, 2023. Acts 2023, 88th Leg., R.S., Ch. 310 (H.B. [1212](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 2, 2023.