

**OBJECTIVE:**

The objective of the Truancy Intervention Program is to enforce the state compulsory school attendance law fairly and equitably. Expected outcomes include increases in the District's Average Daily Attendance and the establishment of normal attendance patterns for at-risk students. It is the District's desire that every student will attend school every day that they are capable of attending.

**Definition:**

Truancy - A student is considered truant if they are absent from school without parental permission. This includes one period through the entire day. Normally these students are not present on the school campus.

Unauthorized absence from class - A student who does not report to or leaves his/her scheduled class and who remains on the school campus is to be considered absent from class without authorization.

**Statutory Requirements:**

Under TEC 25.085, a child shall attend school each school day for the entire period the program of instruction is provided. Unless exempted, a child who is at least six years of age, or who is younger than six years and has previously been enrolled in first grade and who has not yet reached his 18th birthday shall attend school. A student may be excused for a temporary absence resulting from any cause acceptable to the principal or superintendent.

**Exemptions:**

Under TEC 25.086, a child is exempt from compulsory school attendance if the child:

- 1) Attends a private or parochial school (includes Home School);
- 2) Is eligible to participate in the district's special education program under Section 29.003 and can not be appropriately served by the district;

- 3) Has a temporary mental or physical disability that makes attendance infeasible;
- 4) Is expelled;
- 5) Is at least 17 years of age and is in compliance with TEC 25.086(5)(A)(i-iv), (B);
- 6) Is at least 16 years of age and is attending a course of instruction to prepare for the high school equivalency examination, if in compliance with TEC 25.086(A), (B);
- (7) Is enrolled in the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science;
- (8) Is enrolled in the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities; or
- (9) Is specifically exempted under another law.

### **Referrals To Justice Court**

The principal or principal's designee shall obtain and complete a Compulsory School Attendance Violation affidavit. Attachments to the affidavit should include: A) Record of school attendance; B) Current academic progress (Report Card); and C) Other relevant information. This document is to be filed with the Clerk of the Court, Jefferson County Precinct VII Justice of the Peace.

A summons will normally be issued by the court within 1 - 3 days. Most hearings are held prior to the school day.

### **Truancy/Unauthorized Absence From Class:**

#### **Classifications:**

Level I      Consists of those students who are absent without parental permission for the first time.

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They may be handled through the Discipline Management Program. Students remain at Level I if they successfully complete all discipline penalties and have no further truancy violations.

Level II Consists of those students who commit a second compulsory attendance violation and those who do not successfully complete the discipline penalties outlined in their first offense. These students are managed through a referral to the Justice Court. Students remain at this level if, during the adjudication process, no order is issued by the court.

Level III Consists of those students who have been referred to the Justice Court and are assigned to the district's liaison officer for court related students. At this level, the liaison officer will coordinate counseling and other services to the child and parent to establish a normal attendance pattern and academic progress.

**NOTIFICATIONS:**

Parents:

Parents are to be provided notice of a student=s violation of the Compulsory Attendance Law as soon as possible. Parents/Guardians should also be provided the opportunity to cooperate with the school district in resolving the student=s attendance problem.