



**Back on Track - Truancy  
Prevention and Drop Out  
Recovery**  
**Letty Bernal**  
**Elizabeth Aranda**



# AGENDA

**01** Why does Attendance Matter?



**02** Barriers to Attendance



**03** What does it look like in ECISD?



**04** Campus Impact and Tools



# WHY DOES ATTENDANCE MATTER?

- Missing just 2 days a month = 10% of the school year.
- Students who are chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade are much less likely to read on grade level by third grade
- By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes one of the strongest predictors that a student will drop out of high school
- Students who miss more than 10% of school are about 7 times more likely to drop out.
- Attendance is an equity issue



# DEFINING TERMS

## Average Daily Attendance



- School level measurement (not student)
- Notices aggregate attendance at certain points in time (bad weather, holidays)
- Masks individual student chronic absences

## Truancy



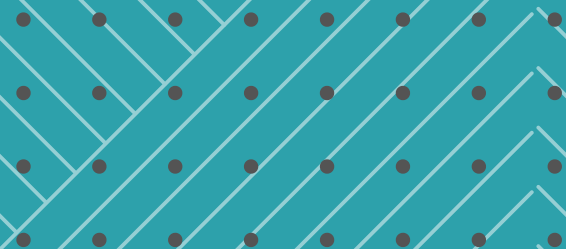
- Counts ONLY unexcused absences
- Emphasizes individual compliance with school rules
- Uses legal, typically more blaming and punitive solutions.

## Chronic Absenteeism



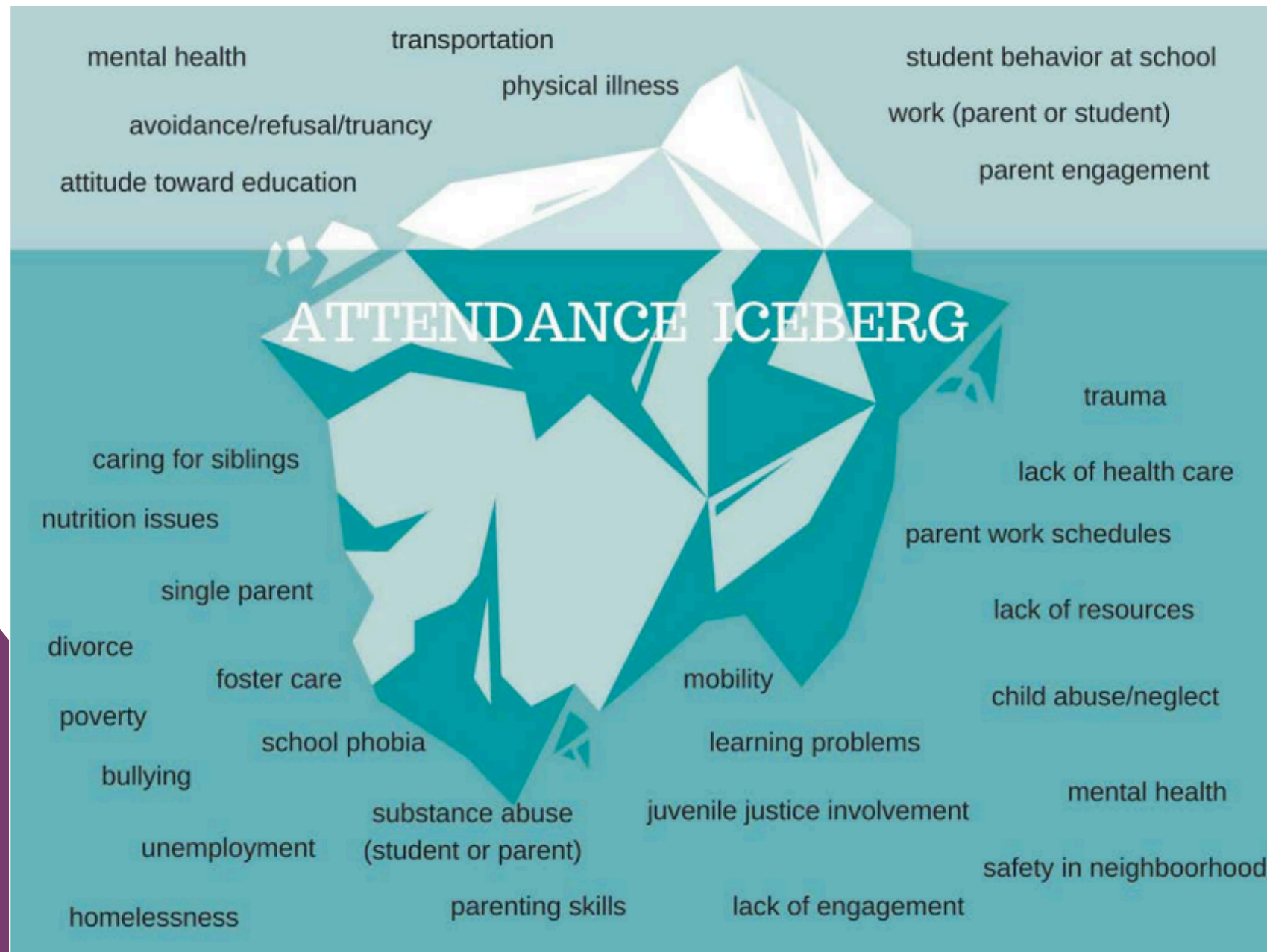
- Missing 10% of the days that school has been offered
- Includes excused, unexcused and suspensions
- Emphasizes the impact of missed days and the benefits of being present

What do you believe is the biggest barrier to consistent school attendance in our community?



# ROOT CAUSES OF CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Truancy is a symptom of a child in need. Identifying the cause can help.



## Home

Lack of resources, parenting skills, domestic violence, homelessness

## School

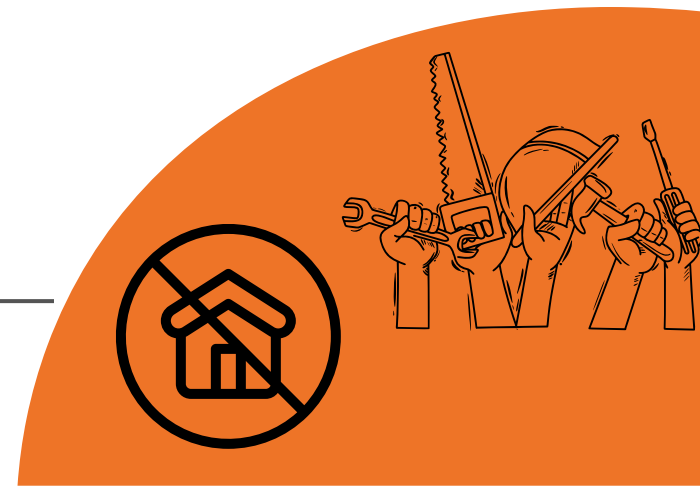
Transportation needs, conflict with peers or teachers, learning difficulties, lack of supplies

## Personal

Medical, mental health, anxiety, death in the family, substance use

# Root Cause: Barriers

Economic hardships- students may need to work to help support their family, some may experience homelessness



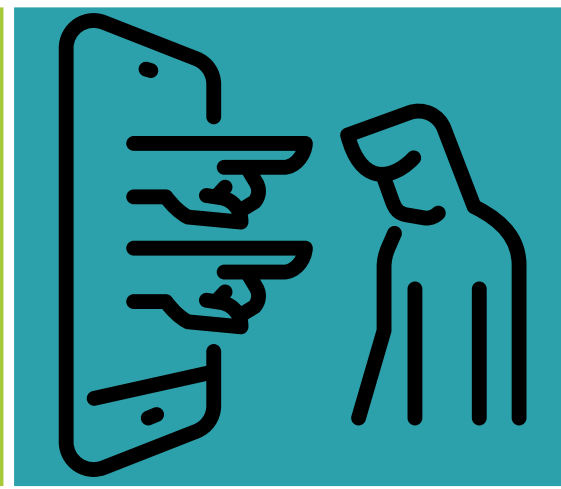
Mental or physical illnesses. Drug or alcohol use.



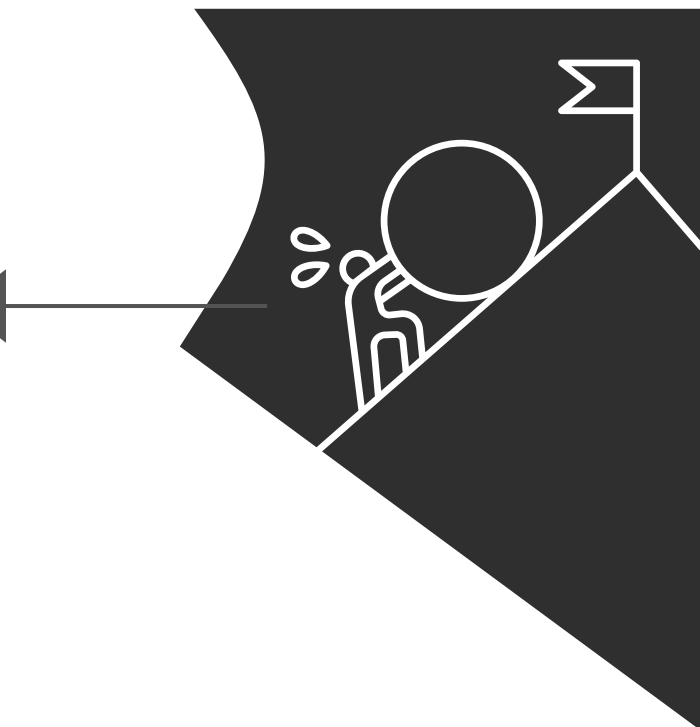
Lack of parental or family support. Inadequate transportation.



Bullying or feeling disconnected to their school



Lack of technology



Becoming a parent or caring for younger siblings



# Root Causes: Aversion and Disengagement

Struggling  
academically or  
behaviorally

Biased disciplinary or  
suspension practices

No meaningful  
relationships to  
anyone at the school

Anxiety



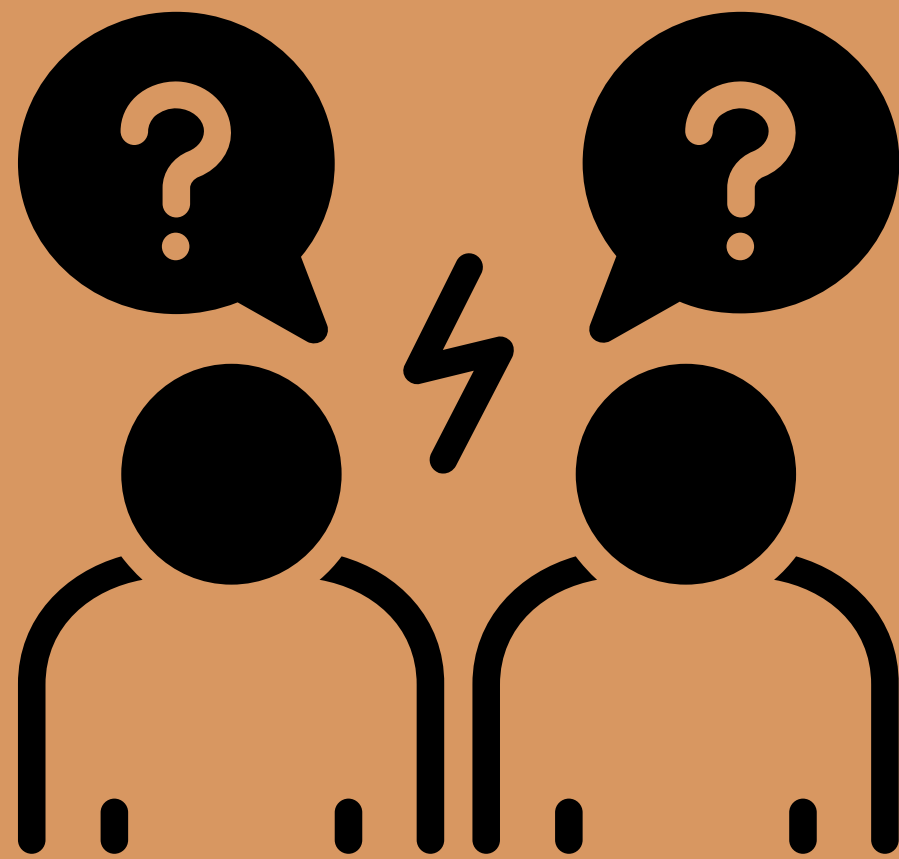
Boredom

Caregivers had  
negative educational  
experiences

Undiagnosed  
disability or lack of  
disability  
accommodations

Unwelcoming school  
climate

Lack of enrichment  
opportunities



# Misconceptions

Absences are only a problem if they are unexcused

Missing 2 days a month does not affect learning

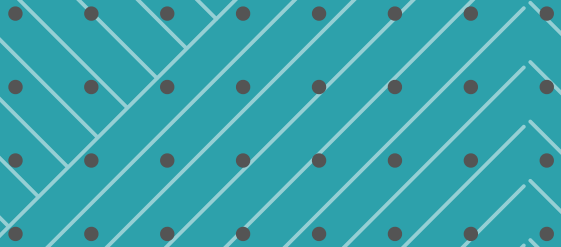
Assumption that students must stay home at ANY sign of illness

Attendance only matters in the older grades

Suspensions don't count as absences

Parents lose track of absences and have a misconception about the TOTAL number of absences

What does Chronic absenteeism  
look like in ECISD?



# Looking at the Numbers for 2024-2025

Attendance Rate  
in 2024-2025

92.6%

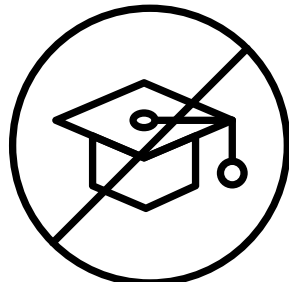
Number of days  
missed

416,896

Rate of  
chronically  
absent students

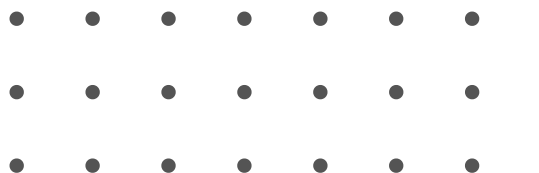
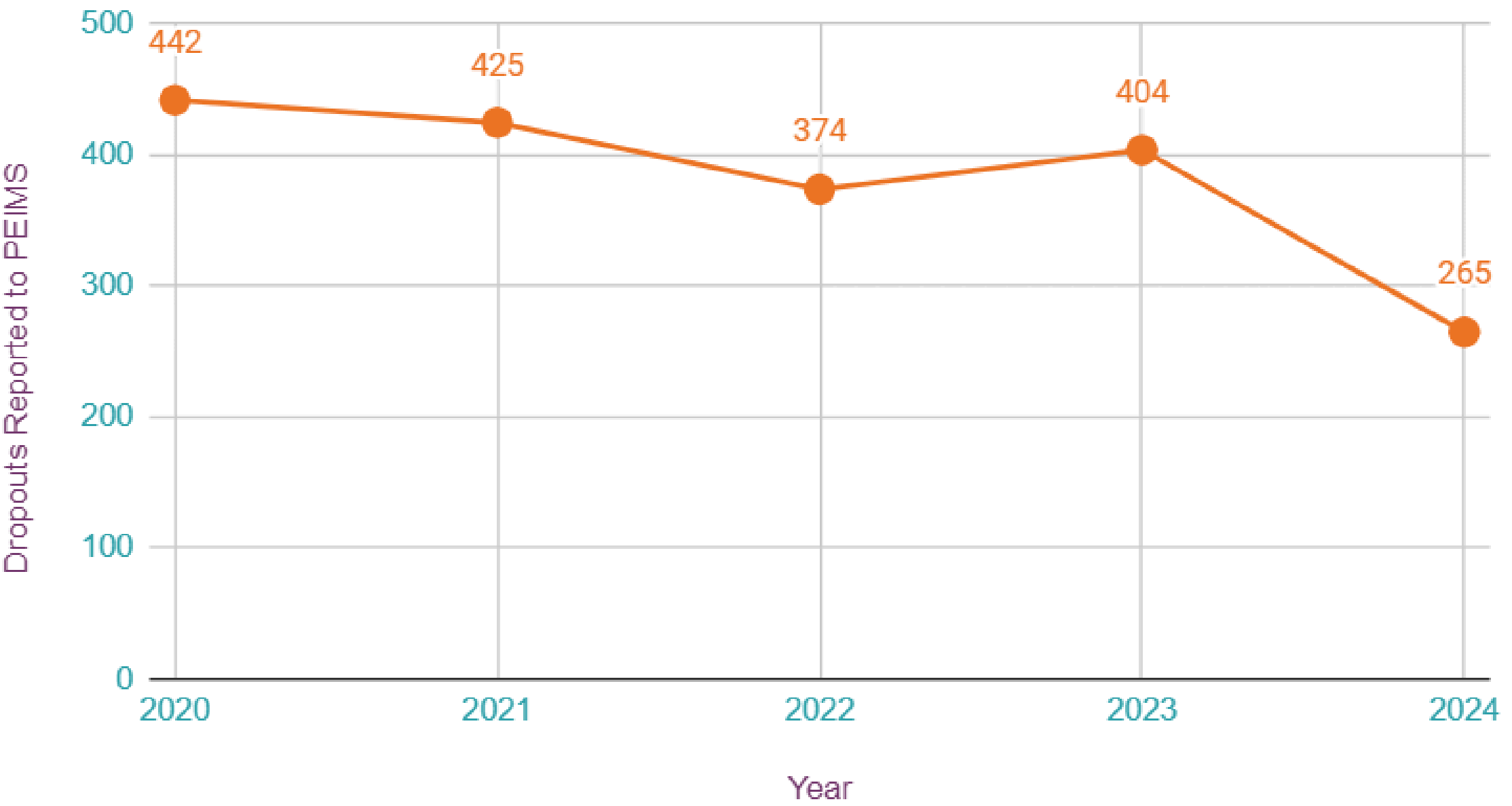
20.9%

# ECISD DROP OUT STATISTICS



2025-2026 Dropout Data <i>as of 4/4/25</i>	
Total Dropouts	277
Bilingual Services	46
McKinney Vento	37
Foster Care	2
Special Education	25

### Dropouts Reported to PEIMS Each Year



# Truancy Process

**3  
UNEXCUSED  
ABSENCES**

The parent is sent a warning letter, and the attendance clerk reaches out to them directly.

The parent is sent a second warning letter encouraging them to reach out to the COC. Meanwhile, the teacher gets in touch with the parent.

**5  
UNEXCUSED  
ABSENCES**

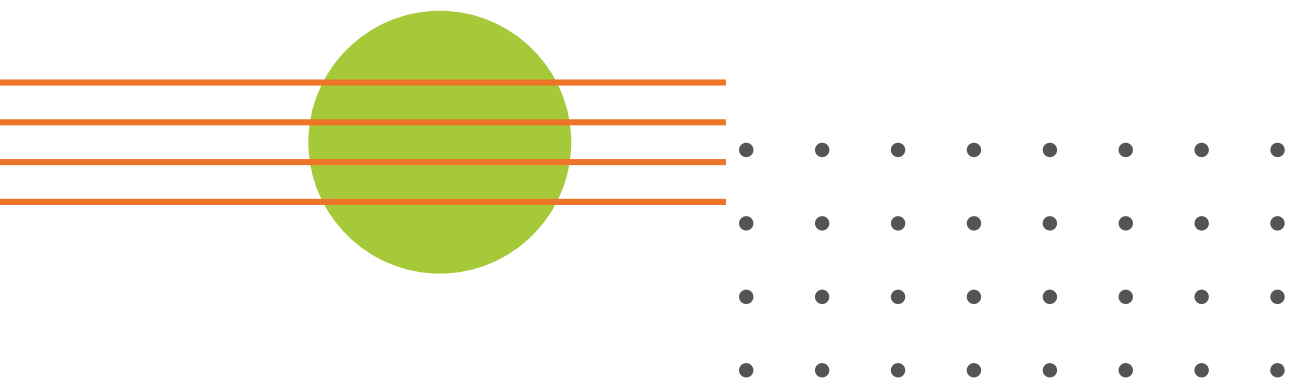
**7  
UNEXCUSED  
ABSENCES**

The counselor contacts the parent

Campus administrators meet with parents to address the causes of absences and establish a truancy contract.

**10  
UNEXCUSED  
ABSENCES**

If attendance does not improve, a truancy court case will be initiated. At this point, the COC also steps in to conduct home visits for students who have accumulated over 20 absences and have not been in contact with the school.



	A	B	C	D	E	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
1	ECISD Weekly Attendance and Drop Out Dashboard															
2	9/2/25 - 9/5/25											TEA RDA Drop Out Count Monitoring Subgroups				
3	Schools	Weekly Attendance % 9/2/25 through 9/5/25	Year to Date % 8/11/25 through 9/5/25	Year to Date ADA Last Year Through Same Time Frame	ADA Year to Date Difference comparing this year to last year	Membership on 9/8/25	Number of Students with 1 or more Truancy Court Filings	Total Number of Truancy Contacts Submitted by Campus	Number of Students with 10 Unexcused Absences Who have an active CONTRACT	Number of Students with 10 Unexcused Absences Who NEED a CONTRACT	Dropouts on (This Year's Drop Outs, Next Year's PEIMS)	EB Drop Outs	Homeless	Foster Care	Military Connected	SPED Drop Outs
4	002 - ODESSA HIGH SCHOOL	94	90.8	92.3	-1.5	3,711		64	0	27						
5	003 - PERMIAN HIGH SCHOOL	91.6	92	93.4	-1.4	3,947		72	0	5						
6	004 - AEC	83.3	91.1	82.6	8.5	31		0	0	0						
7	005 - YOUTH CENTER	100	100	99.6	0.4	13		4	0	0						
8	009 - THE STEM ACADEMY	95.7	96.9	97	-0.1	760		1	0	0						
9	011 - GEORGE HW BUSH NEW TECH	96.5	97.4	97.3	0.1	438		0	0	0						
10	014 - OCTECHS	97.4	96.5	96.7	-0.2	440		1	0	0						
11	015 - ODESSA COLLEGIATE ACADEMY	96.7	97.9	97.8	0.1	483		0	0	0						
12	042 - BONHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL	94.6	95.2	95.2	0	834		4	0	0						
13	043 - BOWIE MIDDLE SCHOOL	93.5	94.5	93.6	0.9	866		1	0	0						
14	044 - CROCKETT MIDDLE SCHOOL	95.3	94.6	94.3	0.3	1,199		0	0	2						
15	045 - WILSON AND YOUNG	95.2	94.9	94.3	0.6	1,219		4	0	1						
16	046 - NIMITZ MIDDLE SCHOOL	95.3	95.1	94.7	0.4	1,299		1	0	2						
17	047 - ECTOR COLLEGE PREP SUCCESS	95.6	94.9	93.8	1.1	1,257		15	0	1						
18	101 - ALAMO/POND ELEM SCHOOL	96.7	97.2	97.4	-0.2	358		0	0	0						
19	102 - AUSTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	96.8	96.2	97.3	-1.1	553		0	0	0						
20	104 - BURNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	93.6	94.9	93.4	1.5	273		3	0	0						
21	105 - CAMERON ELEM SCHOOL	97.7	97.9	97.2	0.7	626		0	0	0						
22	106 - CARVER EARLY EDUC CENTER	91	91.9	91.7	0.2	261		0	0	0						
23	107 - DOWLING ELEM SCHOOL	95.7	96.3	96	0.3	584		3	0	0						
24	110 - GOLIAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	93.5	95	93.7	1.3	460		0	0	0						
25	111 - GONZALES ELEM SCHOOL	95.5	94.5	92.9	1.6	310		89	0	0						
26	112 - HAYS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	98.2	97.7	97	0.7	467		0	0	0						
27	113 - SAM HOUSTON ELEM SCHOOL	95.9	96.6	95	1.6	479		0	0	0						
		2026	2026 Att% by Wk	2026 ATT % YTD	Drop Outs By Week	2026 Truancy Contacts	2026 COC Contacts	2026 Truancy CONTRACTS	2026							

[Attendance Clerks 9.8.25.xlsx](#) = 3 or more unexcused absences

[Teachers 9.8.25.xlsx](#) = 5 or more unexcused absences


[Counselors 9.8.25.xlsx](#) = 7 or more unexcused absences

[AP Principal 9.8.25.xlsx](#) = 10 or more unexcused absences or student has dropped out

- The links above have tabs for each individual campus
- You may also run these reports **at any time** by selecting the SQL report that you wish to see: [INTERVENTION SQL LISTS](#)

# INTERVENTIONS SQL LISTS

# Initial Warning Notices

**Ector County Independent School District**  OUR students. THE future

**WARNING LETTER: ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL - YOUR HELP NEEDED**

Date: 11/05/2021 2482004

Rosanna Towne  
Mac Towne

Please watch a short video explaining attendance and the law: <https://www.google.com/watch?v=7D0k4gKUCJ8&list=PL8k4gKUCJ8&index=1&start=0>

We need your help. Mac's' absences from school are concerning, and your partnership is critical. Students who miss just one or two days of school each month can fall seriously behind.

Mac has missed school (or was more than 15 minutes late) without a valid excuse on:

Being absent can lead to doing poorly in school. Students who miss many days of school are more likely to:

- Fail their classes
- Drop out from high school
- Have poor relationships with parents and teachers

We are required by Texas law to send you this letter and to warn you of the consequences of additional unexcused absences (see sidebar below).

Please remember that every absence matters and just a couple days each month adds up. You are key to improving Mac's attendance.


Sinceramente,


**Texas law requires ECISD notify you of the information in this box.**

Your child has been absent from school, without excuse, under sec. 25.087 Texas Education Code, on three or more days or parts of days within a 4 week period. ECISD is required by law to notify you that: 1. It is the parent's DUTY to monitor the student's school attendance and require the student to attend school; 2. The parent is subject to prosecution for Parent Contributing to Non-Attendance Sec. 25.093 Texas Education Code; 3. The student is subject to referral to truancy court for truancy conduct under Section 65.009(a), Family Code; 4. A person who voluntarily enrolls in school or voluntarily attends school after the person's 19th birthday shall attend school each school day for the entire period the program of instruction is offered. A school district may revoke for the remainder of the school year the enrollment of a person after their 19th birthday who has more than five absences in a semester that are not excused under Section 25.087; 5. A conference is hereby requested between school officials and the parent to discuss the absences; 6. Pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, please be advised that if legal action is initiated against you or your child, ECISD will share the relevant educational records with the Court without the necessity of a court order or subpoena.

If you have concerns about your child's attendance or if you believe our records are inaccurate, contact the school at . If you need help getting your child to attend school please call the ECISD Community Outreach Center at 434-8549.

Ector County ISD does not discriminate on the basis of gender, age, race, nationaly, religion, disability, socioeconomic standing or non proficiency in English language skills in providing educational services for students' benefit.

 432 N. LAW HOUSTON  
ODESSA, TX 79761  
ECTORCOUNTYISD.ORG

**Ector County Independent School District**  OUR students. THE future

**ABSENCIAS DE LA ESCUELA: SE NECESITA SU AYUDA**

Fecha: 11/05/2021 2482004

Rosanna Towne  
Mac Towne

Por favor, mire un breve video sobre la asistencia y la ley: <https://www.google.com/watch?v=7D0k4gKUCJ8&list=PL8k4gKUCJ8&index=1&start=0>

Necesitamos su ayuda. Las ausencias de la escuela de Mac son preocupantes, y su cooperación es crítica. Los estudiantes que pierden solo uno o dos días de escuela cada mes pueden quedarse seriamente atrasados.

Mac faltó a la escuela (o fue más de 15 minutos tarde) sin una excusa válida las siguientes fechas:

Estar ausente puede causar que su hijo no sea exitoso en la escuela. Los estudiantes que se pierden muchos los días de escuela son más propensos a:

- Reprobar sus clases
- Abandonar la escuela secundaria
- Tener malas relaciones con los padres y maestros

Estamos obligados por la ley de Texas a enviarle esta carta y a advertirle de las consecuencias de ausencias injustificadas adicionales (vea la información debajo).

Recuerde que la asistencia es importante y solo un par de días perdidos cada mes suman. Usted es clave para mejorar la asistencia de Mac.


Sinceramente,

**La ley de Texas requiere que ECISD le notifique la información en esta casilla.**

Si hijo(a) ha faltado la escuela sin justificación bajo el código educativo de Texas sección 25.087 tres o más días o parte de día dentro de un periodo de 4 semanas. El ECISD se le requiere por ley para notificarle a usted que: 1. Es la obligación de los padres de vigilar la asistencia a la escuela del estudiante y requiere al estudiante que asista a la escuela; 2. El padre es sujeto a prosecución bajo la ley del Código Educativo de Texas sección 25.093 por Padre Contribuyendo a Falta de Asistencia; 3. El estudiante es sujeto de referencias al tribunal de procedimientos por conducta de desobediencia sin permiso bajo la sección 65.009 (a), del Código de la Familia; 4. Una persona que voluntariamente se matricula en la escuela o que asiste voluntariamente a la escuela después de que ha cumplido 19 años, deberá asistir a la escuela cada día durante el tiempo completo que dure el programa de instrucción que se ofrece. Un distrito escolar puede revocar para el resto del curso escolar la matrícula de una persona que ha cumplido 19 años y tiene más de 5 faltas de asistencia sin justificar en un semestre bajo la sección 25.087; 5. Se pide una conferencia con usted y el oficial de la escuela; 6. De acuerdo con Los Derechos Educativos Familiar y Ley de Privacidad, favor de ser aconsejado en acción legal es iniciada contra usted o su estudiante, ECISD va compartir archivos educativos pertinentes con la corte sin la necesidad de orden o subpoena.

Si tiene inquietudes sobre la asistencia de su hijo o si cree que nuestros registros son incorrectos, comuníquese con la escuela al . Si necesita ayuda para que su hijo asista a la escuela, llame al Community Outreach Center de ECISD al 434-8549.

El ISD del Condado de Ector no discrimina por motivos de género, edad, raza, nacionalidad, religión, discapacidad, posición socioeconómica o de competencia en habilidades del idioma inglés en la prestación de servicios educativos para el beneficio de los estudiantes.

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# Final Warning Notices

Ector County  
Independent School District



## FINAL WARNING NOTICE

Date: 10/21/2021 202 3029329

Janessa Maggio  
Jasiek Mela

Please scan the QR code to watch a short video explaining attendance and the law.



Your child Jasiek has excessive unexcused absences.

Please call the Community Outreach Center at (432) 456-8569 immediately. The purpose of this call is to work together to develop a plan to ensure that your child's attendance improves and hopefully avoid the need for truancy charges to be filed. We are here to help you.

Your child's absences are listed below:

- Tuesday, 24 August of 2021
- Wednesday, 25 August of 2021
- Friday, 27 August of 2021
- Monday, 30 August of 2021
- Tuesday, 31 August of 2021

We are required by Texas law to send you this letter and to warn you of the consequences of additional unexcused absences (see sidebar below).

Sincerely,

### Texas law requires ECISD notify you of the information in this box.

Your child has been absent from school, without excuse, under sec. 25.087 Texas Education Code, on three or more days or parts of days within a 4 week period. ECISD is required by law to notify you that: 1. It is the parent's DUTY to monitor the student's school attendance and require the student to attend school; 2. The parent is subject to prosecution for Parent Contributing to Non-Attendance Sec. 25.093 Texas Education Code; 3. The student is subject to referral to truancy court for truant conduct under Section 65.003(a), Family Code; 4. A person who voluntarily enrolls in school or voluntarily attends school after the person's 19th birthday shall attend school each school day for the entire period the program of instruction is offered. A school district may revoke for the remainder of the school year the enrollment of a person after their 19th birthday who has more than five absences in a semester that are not excused under Section 25.087; 5. A conference is hereby requested between school officials and the parent to discuss the absences; 6. Pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, please be advised that if legal action is initiated against you or your child, ECISD will share the relevant educational records with the Court without the necessity of a court order or subpoena.

If you have concerns about your child's attendance or if you believe our records are inaccurate, contact the school at (443) 320-34-32. If you need help getting your child to attend school please call the ECISD Community Outreach Center at 456-8569.

Ector County ISD does not discriminate on the basis of gender, age, race, nationality, religion, disability, socioeconomic standing or non-proficiency in English language skills in providing educational services for students' benefit.



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ODESSA, TX 79761  
ECTORCOUNTYISD.ORG

Ector County  
Independent School District



## NOTA FINAL DE ADVERTENCIA

Fecha: 10/21/2021 202 3029329

Janessa Maggio  
Jasiek Mela

Please scan the QR code to watch a short video explaining attendance and the law.



Su hijo/a Jasiek tiene faltas excesivas.

Por favor llame inmediatamente a la oficina de Community Outreach Center al numero (432) 456-8569. El proposito de esta llamada es para trabajar juntos y desarrollar un plan para asegurar que la asistencia escolar de su hijo/a se mejore y probablemente evitar la necesidad de que se le presenten cargos. Estamos aqui para ayudarle.

Las faltas de asistencia de su hijo durante este año:

- martes, 24 de agosto del 2021
- miércoles, 25 de agosto del 2021
- viernes, 27 de agosto del 2021
- lunes, 30 de agosto del 2021
- martes, 31 de agosto del 2021

We are required by Texas law to send you this letter and to warn you of the consequences of additional unexcused absences (see sidebar below).

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Si tiene inquietudes sobre la asistencia de su hijo o si cree que nuestros registros son incorrectos, comuníquese con la escuela al (443) 320-34-32. Si necesita ayuda para que su hijo asista a la escuela, llame al Community Outreach Center de ECISD al 456-8569.

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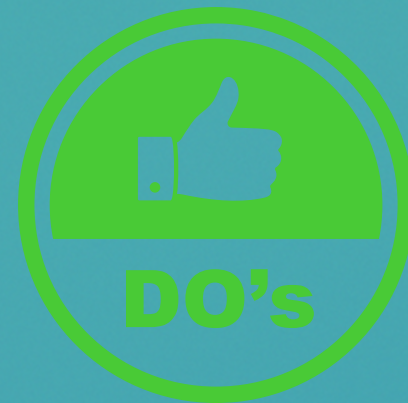
# Credit Warning and Credit loss letters

Letters are sent at the first of each month and do not duplicate

Elementary/Middle  
Warning =  
9-17 absences for  
the year  
Credit Loss = 19+  
absences for the  
year

High School  
Warning = 5-8  
absences per  
semester  
Credit Loss = 9+  
absences per  
semester

Credit letters include excused and unexcused absences. The parents are directed to contact the school



# TIPS FOR SPEAKING TO PARENTS ABOUT ATTENDANCE

- Approach with empathy and curiosity
- Use a warm, nonjudgmental tone
- Focus on the child's success and well-being
- Ask questions to understand the "why" behind absences
- Offer support, not blame
- Partner with families — emphasize “we”
- Keep it brief and positive if it's a first contact
- Mention what they missed and how they need to master this skill for the next lesson: Learning is sequential



- Lead with accusations or threats
- Assume parents don't care
- Shame or scold
- Focus only on numbers
- Forget to follow up

# Documenting in Eduphoria

## Truancy Contact

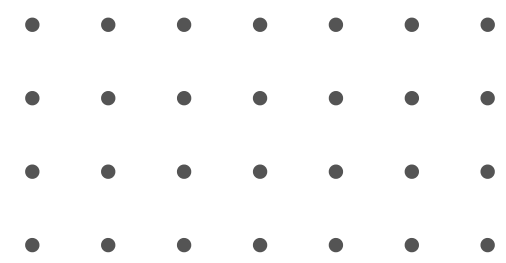
Short form to be used for simple phone, FOCUS text message, or other interventions

## Truancy prevention contract

A lengthier form that should be completed when a counselor, principal, AP or an attendance committee meets with the family. This is required by law. The sooner this is completed the better.

# Contract Reviews

- *All truancy contracts submitted in Eduphoria are reviewed weekly.*
- *During this review, we check:*
  - *Validity of each contract.*
    - *Date of contract must be indicated*
    - *Attendees must be listed*
    - *Narrative should include a summary of what was discussed with the parent and include the parent's input*
    - *There must be **at least one conversation** with the parent or **Four contact attempts** must have been made (using phone, email, and/or home visits).*
  - *Whether **warning letters** were sent to the parent listed in the contract. If not, they are sent during this phase.*



# **COC ONLY RECEIVES A NOTIFICATION WHEN THE CONTRACT IS CREATED, NOT IF UPDATES ARE ADDED.**

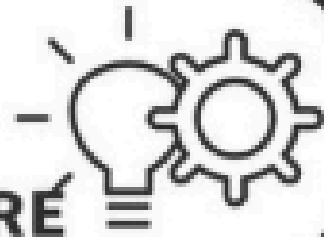


If you create a contract and leave it blank, and COC has reviewed it determined that because it is blank it is invalid, we will not know that you went back and entered the information.

Create a **NEW** contract if you started but did not finish within that day.

# STEPS FOR TRUANCY INTERVENTION DOCUMENTATION IN EDUPHORIA

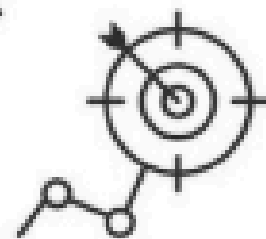
1. LOG IN TO EDUPHORIA AND ENTER IN TO AWARE



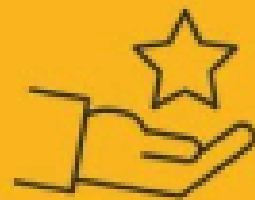
2. SELECT PROFILES



3. IN THE SEARCH BOX ENTER THE ID # OR NAME OF THE STUDENT



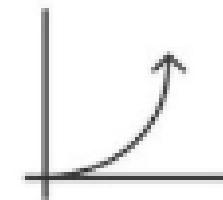
4. SELECT THE STUDENT'S NAME



5. SELECT THE "FORMS" TAB



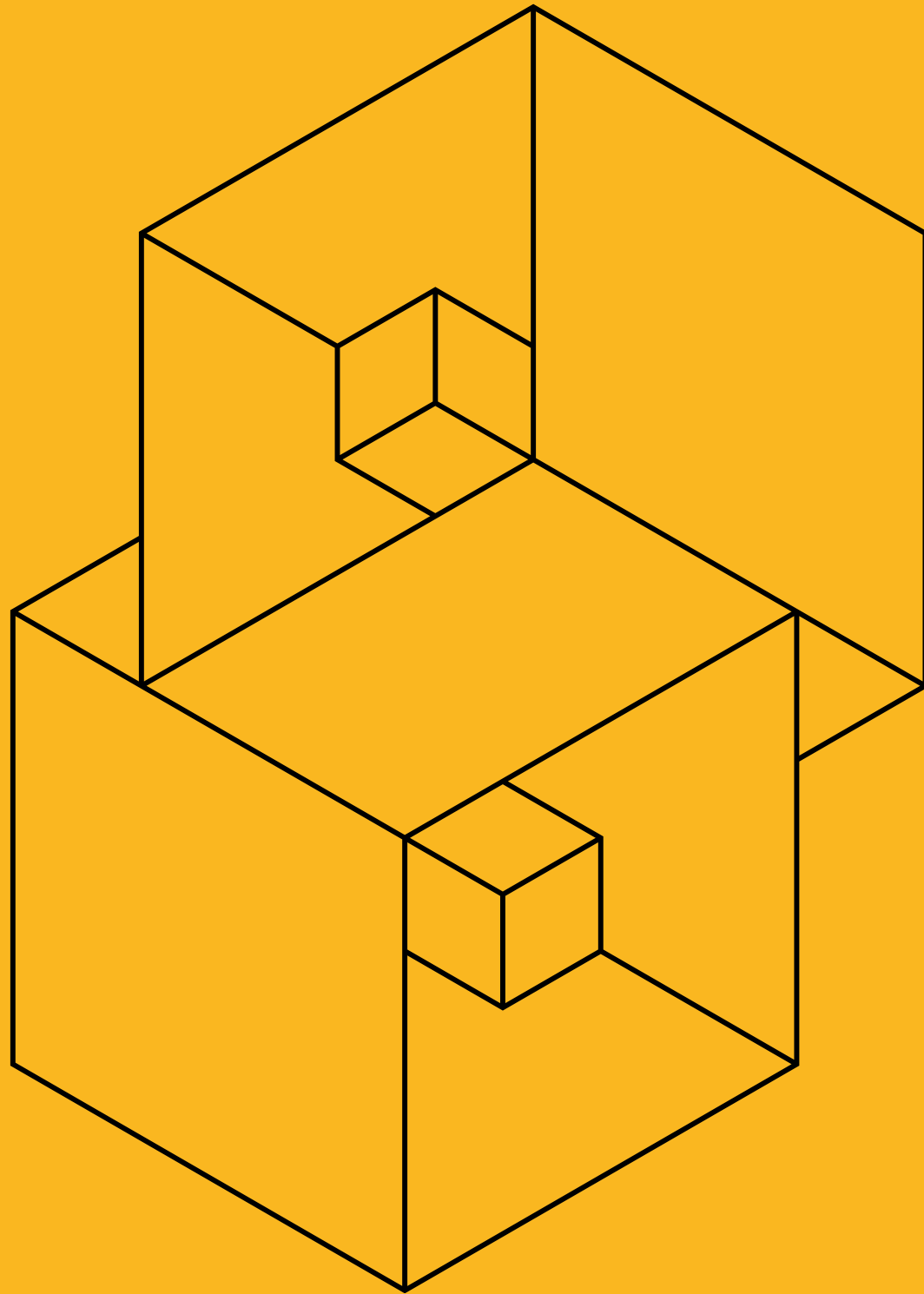
6. SELECT "ADD FORM"



7. SELECT TRUANCY AND THEN CHOOSE BETWEEN "TRUANCY CONTACT REPORT" OR "TRUANCY PREVENTION MEASURES CONTRACT" THEN SELECT "ADD"

8. THE FORM WILL POPULATE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STUDENT'S FORMS. CLICK ON VIEW AND AND COMPLETE IT WITH AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE. MAKE SURE TO SAVE AFTER COMPLETING

# Ideas for Attendance Incentives:



- Positive affirmation to students
- Positive notes home that appreciate their efforts in getting students to school
- Extra time at the computer, PE, or recess
- Free homework pass
- First in line privileges
- Pencils, pens, stickers, posters, book covers, bookmarks
- Team certificates for best record or most improved record
- Name on the “attendance wall” in the classroom
- Chance to act as a teacher’s assistant
- Recognition during morning announcements
- Breakfast/lunch with a special person
- Food coupons
- “School Money” for various prizes

# WHAT CAN WE DO?

Identify specific student needs

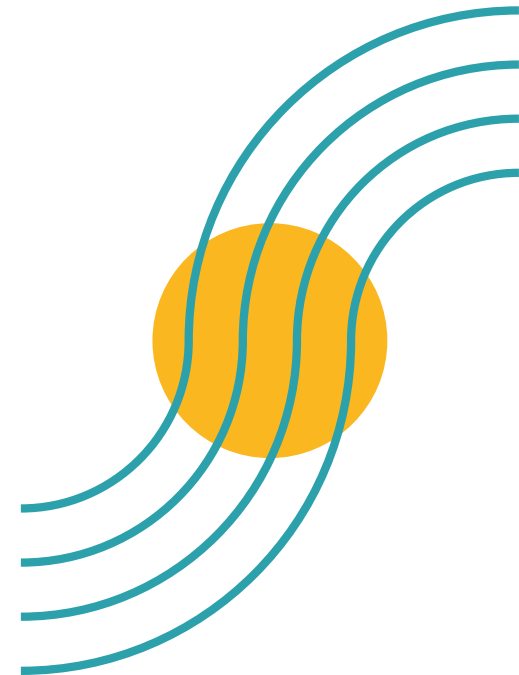
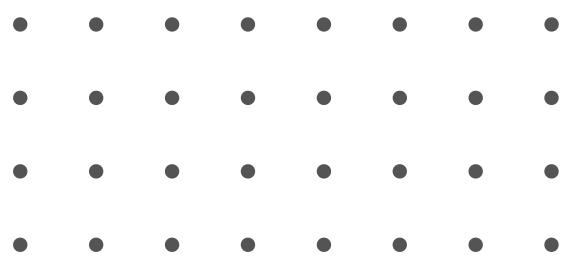


Track attendance data and grades to identify students who are chornically absent

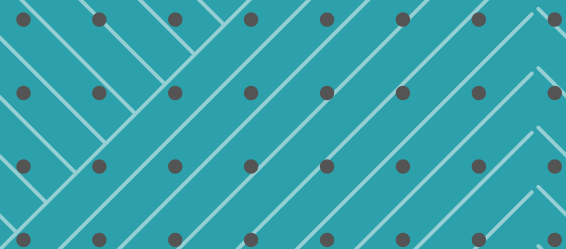
Offer personalized and flexible options such as credit recovery, IEPs, or flexible programs (OFSDP).

Build strong relationships and a welcoming campus culture where students feel safe to seek help and motivated to grow and learn.

Offer wraparound services such as mental health counseling, childcare, transportation, or food assistance to ensure student needs are met.



What's something you've seen — or wish others understood — about the challenges students face when they don't have stable attendance?

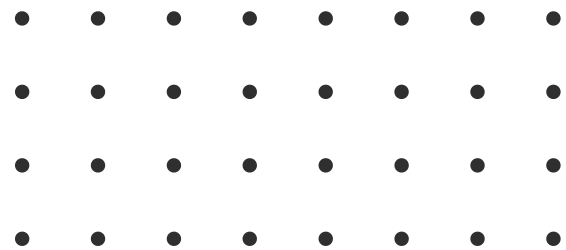




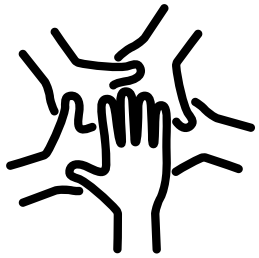
# DROP OUT RECOVERY

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# Drop Out Recovery – Start of Year Action Items



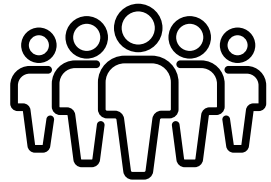
## Form Teams (by 8/15)

- Principal sets campus drop out recovery team (registrar, APs, specialists, etc.)
- Email team list to Letty Bernal.



## Attend Training (starts 8/18)

- Drop Out Recovery Process training via Microsoft Teams.
- Listed in Eduphoria (6 date/time options).



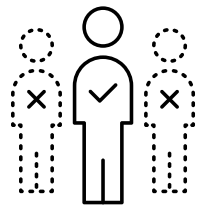
## Special Populations

- Area directors form district-level teams (by 8/16) for SpEd, Bilingual/ESL, Highly Mobile, TPRS, AVID, CTE, CIS.
- Email assignments to Letty Bernal.



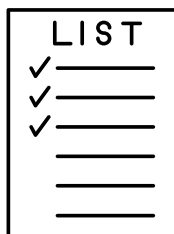
## Enrollment Review

- Ensure activated-but-not-attending students are moved to leaver status (per IS guidance).



## Update Leaver Codes

- Registrars upload documentation to SharePoint (IS will update FOCUS) for students who dropped out last year.
- Registrars are able to update “No Shows” who have a 2025-2026 enrollment row.



## Drop Out List Sent (8/15)

- Letty Bernal sends lists by campus & special population.
- Begin recovery contacts immediately.



## Document Efforts

- Record in Eduphoria (Truancy Contact form).
- Forward documentation to registrar or designated campus contact.

HAVE YOU DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL?

**WE HAVE OPTIONS!**

**COME VISIT WITH US AT ONE OF THE EVENTS BELOW**

Music City Mall  
4101 E 42nd St  
September 4th  
3pm-6:30pm



Community Outreach  
Center  
301 E Clements  
September 6th  
8am-12pm



OC Saulsbury Campus Center  
201 W University  
September 11th  
3pm-6:30pm



### Additional Important Dates

**8/21/2025**

Drop Out Warning Letters are sent out via FOCUS to parents of students 18 and younger

**9/26/2025**

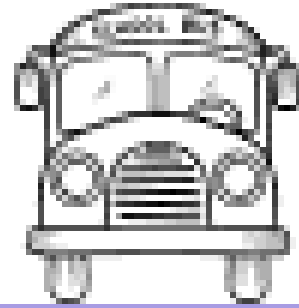
School Start Window Closes (Last day to recover dropouts for accountability purposes)

**All Year**

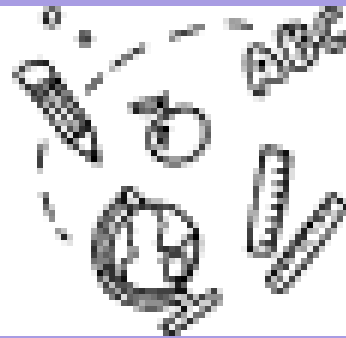
Campus registrar enrolls students and completes TRES requests. Registrar updates leaver codes through IS process.



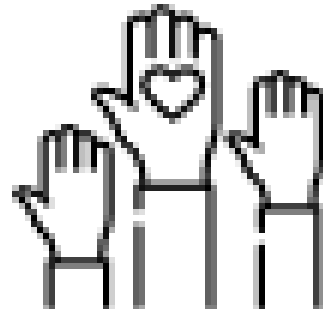
# Welcome Walk Volunteer Role



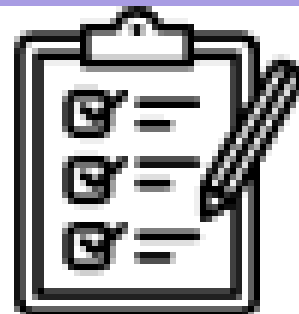
Volunteers will be utilized to make home visits in ECISD Suburbans.



The purpose of the home visit is to meet students and their families and encourage them to return to school.



Volunteers are encouraged to ask the family to go the central location on that date to speak with the different agencies to help facilitate reenrollment.



Volunteers will be given packets of information about the individual students they are visiting. The packets will have the student demographics.



Volunteers can make as many home visits as they would like and volunteer for any amount of time they are available.

## Finding Students at the Start of the Year



### Registrar Research

Check enrollment in TSDS PEIMS Database.

If enrolled in another TX public school, print the enrollment history.

Update withdrawal code and follow procedures from Information Systems.



### Communication

Recovery teams contact parents/students to gather information.

Use protocols and scripts in the Operation Welcome Back Guide.



### Individual Phone Calls

Ask where the student may be attending school.

Use last contacts in FOCUS to get school name and location.

If they dropped out, complete the Welcome Back Questionnaire to learn why or identify needed support.



### Home Visits

Follow Welcome Back Home Visit Safety Protocol.

Work in groups to visit the last known address.

Record any information about the current education setting.

Document Interventions on the Eduphoria Truancy contact form

### **Registrar Documentation**

Registrars update and document all records in the campus SharePoint site set up by Information Systems.

### **Home School**

Have parents complete the Homeschool Letter of Assurance (or provide a signed letter).  
Include the start date of homeschooling.

## **Document, Document Document!!**

### **Oral Statement Verification Form**

Use if a parent/relative says the student has:

- Returned to their home country
- Moved to another state
- Enrolled in private school

Get as much detail as possible: new school name, location, etc.

Turn in the form to the campus registrar so they can request enrollment verification from the new campus or change the leaver if the student has returned to their home country.



# Speaking with parents

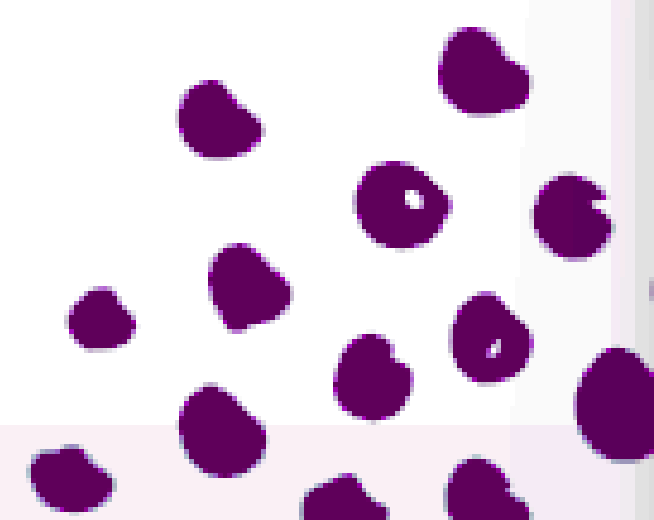
Strategize call times- Consider calling after normal business hours if you are having a hard time reaching the parent. They may not be able to answer the phone during their work hours.

Pleasant tones - The person you are speaking with may make a decision based on your tone. Stay pleasant. Speak clearly. Be direct.

Offer Help - They may not be in the best position to attend school. Use campus resources to help the parent and student. This may be setting up a meeting with a counselor, admin or referring them to COC for additional social supports.

Goal Oriented - Remind the person that you are contacting that our goal is student success. Ensure them that we want success for their student and graduation is a step towards that success.

Listen to Concerns and Stay Positive- The family or student may have had a bad experience with ECISD. Listen to their concerns, restate the goal of the call. If they have further concerns offer them an opportunity to speak with a counselor, administrator or provide them with the number for COC (432-456-8569).





### ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

**Ector Acceleration Academies (EAA)** Credit and dropout recovery program for students who need flexible hours. Downtown on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of ICA Building 620 N Grant Ave. (432) 286-7751

**ECISD Community Outreach Center Grad Labs** Flexible program for students who are juniors or seniors who have passed 3 or more EOC's and who are identified as McKinney Vento or at risk. Students attend in person 4 hours per day. 432-456-8569

### GED PROGRAMS

#### **Cory Learning Center**

GED and pre-GED programs for clients age 17 and up Catholic Charities Community Services Odessa, Inc. 2500 Andrews Hwy 432-332-1387

#### **Odessa College**

OC's Adult Basic Education program offers preparation classes for GED at no charge. 201 W. University Ave, Deadrick Hall Room 106 432-335-6380

#### **Texas Tech Adult Education**

Complete Your High School Education or Earn Your GED — for FREE!  
Email: [ttuk12@ttu.edu](mailto:ttuk12@ttu.edu) Phone: (806) 834-3305



**GED Practice Test:** <https://www.testpreptoolkit.com/free-ged-practice-tests/>



#### **Job Corp**

Job Corp is a free education and training program that helps young people learn a career, earn a high school diploma or GED, and find and keep a good job. For eligible young people at least 16-24 years of age that qualify as low income. 1-800-733-5627

#### **Texas Challenge Academy**

The Texas Challenge Academy (TCA) is a volunteer program for 16 to 18 year-old teens. TCA is an accredited high school through a partnership with the Rice Consolidated Independent School District in Eagle Lake, Texas. Cadets will work towards high school credit recovery or obtaining their G.E.D. 1-877-822-0050

### ONLINE HIGH SCHOOLS

#### **K-12**

Free online school for grades K-12 Students can communicate with their teacher via online classroom, email, and phone 866-968-7512

#### **Penn Foster High School**

Tuition with payment plans 1-888-427-6200

#### **Texas Connections Academy**

Free online virtual school - 3-12<sup>th</sup> grade. 1-800-382-6010

#### **The Excel Center High School**

Free online charter school for ages 18+. <https://excelcenterhighschool.org/>

#### **Excel High School**

\$99-\$169 per month; Some scholarships available through Ector County Library. Ages 14 to adults. Self paced online. <https://www.excelhighschool.com/>

#### **Texas Tech Online (Tuition Free)**

<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/k12/freetuition/>

#### **Texas Virtual School Network**

<https://txvsn.org/OLS-Campuses>

### OTHER SCHOOL OPTIONS:

#### **Premier High School**

Individual education approach that is not offered by traditional schools  
1801 N. Lee Ave., Odessa 432-305-0095

#### **Compass Academy Charter School**

K-11<sup>th</sup> grade - 5530 Billy Hext Rd., Odessa 432-272-1836

#### **Harmony Science**

K-8<sup>th</sup> grade 2755 N. Grandview Ave 432-363-6000

#### **Richard Milburn Academy**

Free public school designed for students who have had trouble in a traditional school setting. 2419 N. County Rd. W. #100, Odessa 432-614-1859

#### **Texas Works Adult Charter School**

Free public charter school for people ages 18-50 who would like to earn their high school diploma. 1801 N Lee Ave, Odessa, TX 79761 432-305-0095  
<https://texasworks.com/>

# Ongoing Dropout Recovery

## **Principals**

- Review campus dropout list weekly (from Attendance & Dropout Report).
- Ensure systematic recovery efforts and documentation in Eduphoria.
- Ensure Truancy Prevention Measures Contracts are used for all students.

## **Registrar**

- Enter leaver codes per IS process.
- Monitor non-dropout leavers—change to 84 if no records request in 2 weeks.

## **Counselors / APs**

- Identify & support at-risk students.
- Monitor credits, adjust graduation plans if needed.
- Use EAA, or COC Grad Labs.

## **Special Population Directors**

- Monitor dropout list for your group.
- Remove barriers to re-enrollment.



The purpose of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is to identify and remove barriers for children and youth experiencing homelessness and ensure that students in these circumstances have comparable access to all available supports and resources to meet the same challenging state academic standards established for all students.

## Who is Covered by the McKinney-Vento Act?

Children and youth who lack a **fixed, regular, and adequate** night-time residence, including those who:

- Are sharing the housing of other persons (doubled up) due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals.
- Have a primary night-time residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Are migratory children living in the above circumstances.
- Unaccompanied youth include a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.



Doubled-up with other people



Homeless Shelter



Hotel/Motel or campground



Car, park, empty building, bus or train station

42 United States Code (USC), §11434(a)

## Did You Know?

Children and youth experiencing homelessness face many educational barriers due to the disruption and trauma of not having a fixed, regular, and adequate place to live. In many cases, schools often become the one place where these children and youth are afforded stability, safety, and support. Chronic absenteeism, truancy, and behaviors that lead to disciplinary challenges can be common for students experiencing homelessness.

State and local educational agencies must review and undertake steps to revise any requirements in laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as a barrier to the identification of, or the enrollment, attendance, or success in school of, children and youths experiencing homelessness ([42 USC, §11431](#)).



FIGHT



FLIGHT



FREEZE

## Disciplinary Challenges

Disruptive or defiant behaviors, such as Fight-Flight-Freeze responses, can be a result of situationally developed trauma for a student experiencing homelessness. These could include, but are not limited to:

- Prolonged lack of basic needs (e.g., food, water, clothing, etc.)
- Frequent transitions between temporary living locations and changing schools.
- Gaps in academic and functional abilities (e.g., below grade level achievement, difficulty establishing relationships and trust with adults and peers, etc.)

Stress from Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can change brain development and affect how the body responds to stress. LEAs should be aware of how trauma can impact the behavior of students experiencing homelessness.

The McKinney-Vento Act does not grant exemption from standard local discipline policies. All students, including those students experiencing homelessness, must abide by the same Student Code of Conduct as their non-homeless peers.

However, when behaviors are directly related to a student's homelessness (e.g., tardiness, absenteeism), state law does have specific prohibitions and considerations for children and youth who are experiencing homelessness.

## Prevention Measures for Chronic Absenteeism and Truancy

Before you count a student as truant, have you:



Developed a behavior improvement plan?



Offered school-based community service?



Referred the student to services aimed at addressing the student's truancy (e.g., counseling, mediation, mentoring, a teen court program, community-based services, or other in-school or out-of-school services). Texas Education Code ([TEC §25.0915](#))

A school district **must offer additional counseling to a student and may not refer the student to truancy court** under Section 25.0951 or any other provision if the school determines that the student's truancy is the result of... homelessness.

19 Texas Administrative Code ([TAC §129.1043](#))

## Discipline Considerations



Disciplinary decisions must take into consideration 'a student's status as a student who is homeless' as a factor in each decision, regardless of whether the action is a mandatory or discretionary action.

This includes suspension, removal to Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP), expulsion, or placement in Juvenile Justice Alternative Education (JJAEP) program ([TEC §37.001](#)).

Out-of-school suspension (OSS) is prohibited for students identified as homeless unless the behavior involves weapons, drugs, repeated or significant disruption, or serious threats to safety. Under HB 6, a parent or guardian may request reassignment to in-school suspension (ISS) if they are unable to provide suitable supervision during OSS. This reassignment is at the discretion of the principal or administrator and must be documented with supporting information. TEC §37.005(b) limits the disciplinary removals for in school suspension (ISS) and OSS to a 3-day maximum length of term. [TEC §37.005](#)



Discuss **alternatives** to OSS for a student experiencing homelessness. [TEC §37.005\(d\)](#)

Behavior coordinator + Administrator + McKinney-Vento Liaison meet & collaborate to determine appropriate disciplinary action.

Administrator considered student's homelessness and recommends assignment of suspension [i.e., ISS or OSS as described by Subsections [TEC §37.005\(c\)\(1\)-\(4\)](#)]

During the period of the student's suspension, an **alternative** means of receiving all course work must be provided in the classes in the foundation curriculum under [§28.002\(a\)\(1\)](#) that the student misses due to the suspension.

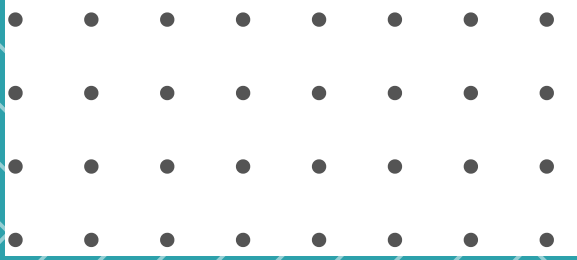
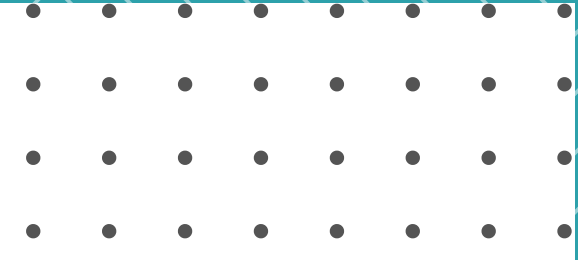
District must provide **at least one** option for receiving the course work that **does not** require the use of the Internet. [TEC §37.005\(e\)](#)

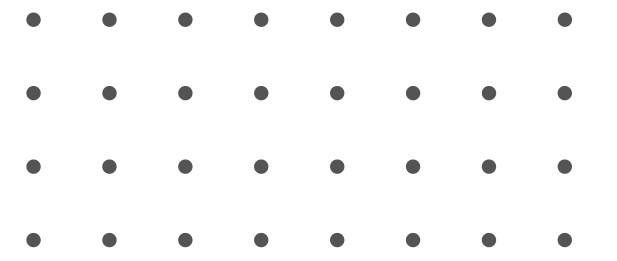
If School of Origin transportation is being provided, it must continue to be provided if a placement at DAEP is determined.



TSDS PEIMS Descriptors: Allowable Reasons for Assigning OSS to Students Experiencing Homelessness

Behavior Descriptors	Definition
05	Sells, gives, or delivers to another person an alcoholic beverage, commits a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol, or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of an alcoholic beverage.
12	Unlawful Carrying of a Location-Restricted Knife
14	Conduct Containing the Elements of an Offense Relating to Prohibited Weapons
36	Sells, gives, or delivers to another person, or possesses or, uses, or is under the influence of a Felony Level Controlled Substance or dangerous drug (excluding marijuana and THC)
62	Possesses, uses, or is under the influence of, or sells, gives, or delivers to another person marijuana or THC
64	Sells, gives, delivers to another person, possesses, uses, or is under the influence of a controlled substance (non-felony)
65	Threatens Immediate Health and Safety of Other Students in Classroom
66	Documented Repeated or Significant Disruption to the Classroom
69	Disorderly Conduct Involving a Firearm
73	Exhibits, Uses, or Threatens to Exhibit or Use a Firearm





**THANK  
YOU** |

