



**Kosciusko School District
Chronic Absenteeism & Family Engagement Plan
2026-2027**

District Administration

Superintendent	Dr. Danya Turner
Assistant Superintendent	Dr. Josh Dodd
Business Manager	Sandy McBride
Director of Exceptional Services	Kayla Briscoe
Director of Child Nutrition	Laura Carraway
Director of Technology	Jeffrey Mitchell
Director of Transportation	Evan Horn
Director of Maintenance	Stacy Davis
Director of Athletics	Hogan Briscoe
Chief SRO	Mark Gilmore
Human Resources/Payroll	Patricia Parker
Accounts Payable/MSIS/SAMS	Amanda Dismuke
Title I Supervisor/Admin Asst. Fixed Assets Manager	Nicole Witzel
Computer IT	Jennifer Blount
Receptionist	Wanda Turnbo

School Administration

Lower Elementary	Monica Harris
Middle Elementary	Logan Cheek
Upper Elementary	Will Anderson
Junior High	Eli Dew
High School	Macy Wilbanks
Alternative School	Semone Olive

The following acronyms may be used in this handbook:

KSD	Kosciusko School District
KLE	Kosciusko Lower Elementary
KME	Kosciusko Middle Elementary
KUE	Kosciusko Upper Elementary
KJHS	Kosciusko Junior High School
KHS	Kosciusko Senior High School

District Directory

Lower Elementary 109 Veterans Memorial Dr. Kosciusko, MS 39090 662.289.3364	Middle Elementary 233 South Wells St. Kosciusko, MS 39090 662.289.4653	Upper Elementary 120 Fourth Ave. Kosciusko, MS 39090 662.289.2264	Junior High 317 East Jefferson St. Kosciusko, MS 39090 662.289.3737
High School 415 Veterans Memorial Dr. Kosciusko, MS 39090 662.289.2424	Alternative School 820 South Huntington St. Kosciusko, MS 39090 662.289.1188	District Office 229 West Washington St. Kosciusko, MS 39090 662.289.4771	Exceptional Services 206 South Huntington St. Kosciusko, MS 39090 662.289.7193

Kosciusko School District Academic Calendar 2026-2027

July 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
S=0 T=3						

August 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
S=21 T=21						

September 2026						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30			
S=21 T=21						

October 2026						
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November 2026						
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29	30					
S=16 T=16						

December 2026						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
S=14 T=14						

January 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
S=18 T=19						

February 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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28						
S=19 T=19						

March 2027						
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
S=15 T=16						

April 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
S=22 T=22						

May 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
S=18 T=19						

June 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
S=0 T=0						

Semester 1 = 88 Total Student Days = 180
 Semester 2 = 92 Total Staff Days = 187
 Total Year = 180

Board Approved January 12, 2026

	New Teacher Orientation
	First Day of 9 Weeks
	Professional Development Days
	Progress Reports/Report Cards
	Holidays (Schools/Offices Closed)
	60% School Day
	Graduation

July 29, 30, 31	Professional Development Days
August 3	First Day of School
September 7	Labor Day
September 9	1st Nine Weeks Progress Reports
October 5-9	Fall Break Holiday
October 12	Professional Development Day
October 13	2nd Nine Weeks Begins
October 14	1st Nine Weeks Report Cards
November 11	2nd Nine Weeks Progress Reports
November 23-27	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 18	60% School Day
December 21 - January 1	Christmas Holiday
January 4	Professional Development Day
January 5	3rd Nine Weeks Begins
January 6	2nd Nine Weeks Report Cards
January 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
February 10	3rd Nine Weeks Progress Reports
February 15	Presidents' Day Holiday
March 8-12	Spring Break Holiday
March 15	Professional Development Day
March 16	4th Nine Weeks Begins
March 17	3rd Nine Weeks Report Cards
March 26	Good Friday
March 29	Easter Monday/Incl. Weather Day
April 14	4th Nine Weeks Progress Reports
May 21	KHS Graduation
May 26	60% School Day
May 27	Professional Development Day
May 31	Memorial Day Holiday



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Kosciusko School District is to empower every student to discover and pursue their path, achieving their goals in higher education, careers, and personal growth.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Empower Student Achievement

- Instill high standards, increase rigor, expand AP courses, and challenge students.
- Develop well-rounded individuals through real-world experiences, diverse student pathways, and enhanced CTE instruction.
- Establish a shared vision of high-impact classroom instruction.
- Promote a culture of growth mindset.

Foster Professional Growth

- Recruit and retain exceptional teachers.
- Cultivate teacher growth through dynamic learning communities.
- Leverage data to drive targeted professional development.
- Develop and empower instructional leaders.

Enhance Resources and Facilities

- Elevate the maintenance and beautification of school campuses.
- Conduct annual assessments and replenish technology needs for each school.
- Implement targeted incentives and resources for teachers.
- Ensure campus safety through comprehensive logistical analysis.

Purpose

The Kosciusko School District recognizes that regular school attendance is essential to academic achievement, student engagement, and long-term success. In accordance with Mississippi Senate Bill 2103, the district has developed this Comprehensive Chronic Absenteeism and Family Engagement Plan to improve student attendance through proactive interventions, meaningful family partnerships, and data-driven decision-making. This plan establishes consistent districtwide procedures for monitoring attendance, identifying students at risk of chronic absenteeism, implementing tiered interventions, and engaging families in supporting regular school attendance.

District Attendance Philosophy

Regular attendance is a shared responsibility among students, families, schools, and the community. Every school day matters, and every instructional minute provides valuable opportunities for learning, relationship building, and student growth. The Kosciusko School District is committed to identifying attendance concerns early, removing barriers that prevent students from attending school, and partnering with families to ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Attendance Requirements

Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, attendance will be calculated in accordance with Mississippi Senate Bill 2103. A student must be present for **at least sixty-six percent (66%) of the instructional day** to be considered present. Students attending less than sixty-six percent (66%) of the instructional day will be considered absent. Attendance will be recorded daily using the district's Student Information System and monitored continuously throughout the school year. Attendance interventions outlined in this plan shall be initiated using attendance data calculated in accordance with the sixty-six percent (66%) instructional day requirement established by Mississippi Senate Bill 2103.

District Goals

Kosciusko School District will strive to:

- Increase Average Daily Attendance (ADA)
- Reduce Chronic Absenteeism
- Increase Family Engagement
- Improve Student Achievement
- Identify attendance concerns early
- Remove barriers to student attendance
- Strengthen communication between schools and families
- Ensure consistent attendance procedures across all schools

Definition of Chronic Absenteeism

A student is considered chronically absent when he or she misses **10% or more of the school year**, regardless of whether absences are excused or unexcused. The district will monitor attendance throughout the year to identify students who are trending toward chronic absenteeism, chronically absent, and/or demonstrating attendance patterns that require intervention.

Attendance Monitoring

Attendance will be reviewed daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, each semester, and yearly. The district will generate attendance reports that include average daily attendance, attendance percentages by school, grade-level attendance rates, student subgroup attendance, chronic absenteeism rates, students approaching intervention thresholds, and attendance trends over time. These reports will be used to monitor attendance patterns, identify areas of concern, and guide intervention efforts. Principals will review attendance data regularly with school leadership teams. Attendance records shall be maintained and reported in accordance with Mississippi Department of Education reporting requirements through the district's Student Information System and MSIS.

Early Warning Indicators

The district will utilize early warning indicators, attendance prediction reports, attendance percentages, chronic absenteeism reports, and other available data to proactively identify students who may require attendance interventions before attendance patterns become chronic. Schools will use these data to provide timely supports and monitor student progress throughout the school year.

Tiered Attendance Intervention Framework

Tier I – Universal Supports (All Students)

The district promotes positive attendance through proactive communication, family engagement, and schoolwide recognition efforts. Universal attendance supports include communicating attendance expectations during registration and parent orientation, publishing attendance procedures in the student handbook and on school websites, utilizing district communication platforms and social media, conducting attendance awareness campaigns, recognizing positive attendance, providing classroom and schoolwide attendance incentives, celebrating strong attendance, and maintaining regular communication with families regarding the importance of daily attendance.

Tier II – Early Intervention

Students demonstrating early attendance concerns will receive timely interventions designed to identify barriers and improve attendance before attendance patterns become chronic. Indicators that may prompt intervention include three (3) unexcused absences, excessive tardies, frequent early checkouts, patterned absences, declining attendance percentages, attendance prediction alerts, or other early warning indicators. Appropriate interventions may include parent phone calls, attendance notification letters, teacher communication, counselor referrals, attendance conferences, discussions to identify barriers to attendance, development of attendance improvement strategies, and documentation of all intervention efforts. Student attendance will continue to be monitored to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions and determine whether additional supports are necessary.

Tier III – Intensive Intervention

Students experiencing chronic absenteeism or significant attendance concerns will receive individualized, intensive supports designed to remove barriers and improve attendance. Interventions may include Attendance Team meetings, parent conferences, development of an Individual Attendance Improvement Plan, referrals through the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), school counseling services, social worker or community agency referrals, home visits when appropriate, ongoing progress monitoring, and implementation of truancy procedures in accordance with Mississippi law.

Family Engagement Plan

The Kosciusko School District recognizes that families are essential partners in promoting regular school attendance and student success. The district is committed to building strong relationships with families through consistent communication, collaboration, and meaningful opportunities for engagement. Families will be encouraged to actively support daily attendance and participate in attendance improvement efforts throughout the school year.

Communication

The district will communicate attendance expectations and procedures before the school year begins and reinforce them throughout the year. Attendance information will be shared through student registration, the Student Handbook, the district website, SchoolStatus, phone calls, emails, text messages, letters, parent conferences, and other appropriate communication methods to ensure families remain informed and engaged.

Positive Family Engagement

Schools will foster a positive attendance culture by recognizing and celebrating students and families for excellent attendance, improved attendance, classroom attendance goals, and schoolwide attendance achievements. Positive communication may include congratulatory messages, attendance certificates, school recognition programs, social media celebrations, and other acknowledgments that encourage regular school attendance.

Parent Conferences and Attendance Support

When attendance concerns arise, schools will communicate with families promptly to discuss the concern, identify potential barriers, and develop strategies to improve attendance. Parent conferences may be used to establish attendance goals, connect families with available resources, and monitor student progress. Families are encouraged to serve as active partners throughout the attendance intervention process.

Identifying Attendance Barriers

Improving student attendance begins with understanding the factors contributing to absences. Schools will work collaboratively with families to identify attendance barriers and develop appropriate solutions whenever possible. Barriers may include, but are not limited to, transportation challenges, illness or medical concerns, mental health or social-emotional needs, housing instability, childcare responsibilities, family emergencies, academic challenges, school climate concerns, peer relationships, and behavioral concerns. When appropriate, schools may collaborate with district personnel and community agencies to connect families with available resources and supports that promote improved student attendance.

Attendance Improvement Strategies

The district recognizes that improving student attendance often requires individualized support based on each student's unique needs and circumstances. Attendance improvement strategies will be selected based on the identified barriers to attendance and may include attendance contracts, mentoring, Check-In/Check-Out supports, interventions through the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), school counseling services, academic interventions, parent meetings, attendance incentives, community partnerships, social worker support, or other appropriate interventions designed to improve student attendance and engagement. Schools will monitor the effectiveness of selected interventions and make adjustments as needed to support continued attendance improvement.

The Kosciusko School District recognizes that meaningful family engagement is essential to improving attendance outcomes. This Family Engagement Plan serves as the district's locally developed family engagement plan in accordance with Mississippi Senate Bill 2103.

Implementation

This plan shall be implemented in every school within the Kosciusko School District beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. Principals are responsible for ensuring the plan is implemented with fidelity, that attendance interventions are documented, and that attendance procedures are consistently followed throughout their schools.

Roles and Responsibilities

District Administration

District administration is responsible for providing leadership and oversight of the district's attendance program. Responsibilities include monitoring district attendance data, ensuring compliance with Mississippi law and State Board of Education policies, providing guidance and support to school administrators, reviewing attendance trends, and evaluating the effectiveness of district attendance practices and interventions.

Principals

Principals are responsible for implementing this plan at the school level by monitoring attendance, reviewing attendance reports, communicating with families, ensuring appropriate interventions are implemented, maintaining required documentation, and promoting a positive school culture that supports regular attendance.

Teachers

Teachers play a critical role in promoting daily attendance by accurately recording and submitting attendance each school day, communicating attendance concerns with families and school personnel, encouraging regular attendance, and reporting students who may require additional support.

School Counselors and Intervention Staff

School counselors, attendance personnel, and other intervention staff will assist with attendance improvement efforts by conducting attendance meetings, providing interventions and student support services, collaborating with families, coordinating community referrals when appropriate, and monitoring student progress.

Parents and Guardians

Parents and guardians are essential partners in supporting student attendance. Families are expected to ensure their children attend school regularly, notify the school of student absences, submit required documentation in accordance with district procedures, participate in conferences and attendance meetings when requested, and actively support attendance improvement plans.

Data Collection and Continuous Improvement

The district will collect and review attendance data on an ongoing basis to monitor attendance patterns, evaluate the effectiveness of interventions, and guide continuous improvement efforts. Data reviewed may include average daily attendance, chronic absenteeism rates, excused and unexcused absences, tardies, early checkouts, attendance by school and grade level, and attendance among student subgroups. Attendance data will be reviewed regularly to identify trends, evaluate intervention effectiveness, and support data-informed decision-making across the district.

Technology and Attendance Management

The district will utilize electronic attendance management systems to monitor daily attendance, identify attendance trends, generate attendance reports, document interventions, communicate with families, and support state reporting requirements. Should the district implement SchoolStatus Attend or a comparable attendance management platform, additional features such as automated family notifications, predictive attendance analytics, intervention tracking, and enhanced attendance documentation may be incorporated into district procedures.

Annual Review and School Board Approval

The Kosciusko School District is committed to maintaining an effective, compliant, and responsive Chronic Absenteeism & Family Engagement Plan. This plan shall be reviewed annually by district leadership to evaluate its effectiveness in improving student attendance, reducing chronic absenteeism, and strengthening family engagement across the district. The annual review will include an analysis of attendance data, intervention outcomes, family engagement efforts, and any changes to applicable federal or state law, Mississippi Department of Education guidance, or district policy. Based on the findings of this review, revisions may be made to ensure the plan remains compliant with current requirements and continues to meet the needs of the students, families, and schools of the Kosciusko School District. Any substantive revisions to this plan shall be presented to the Kosciusko School District Board of Trustees for consideration and approval.

KSD Board Approval
Chronic Absenteeism & Family Engagement Plan
2026-2027

The undersigned certify that the **Kosciusko School District Chronic Absenteeism & Family Engagement Plan** has been approved by the Kosciusko School District Board of Trustees and is adopted as the district's official attendance intervention and family engagement plan in accordance with the requirements of **Mississippi Senate Bill 2103**, applicable Mississippi law, and guidance issued by the Mississippi Department of Education.

Dr. Danya Turner, Superintendent

Date

Mrs. Allison Schuler, Board President

Date