

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

A Family-Friendly Guide to School Attendance | TK–12th Grade

In the Freeman School District: We know that regular attendance helps students stay connected, keep learning, and feel successful at school.

NEW DISTRICT ATTENDANCE POLICY

Families have **10 days from the date of their child's absence** to excuse the absence. Please contact the school as soon as possible rather than waiting until the 10-day deadline.

WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS

10%	About 18 days matters. Missing around 10% of school days in a typical 180-day year is considered chronic absence and is associated with academic risk.
TK–12	Every grade matters. Attendance patterns begin early, and higher absence in middle and high school is associated with lower academic outcomes.
ALL	Learning is connected. When students miss school, they can miss instruction, relationships, routines, and opportunities to participate.

HOW TO REPORT OR EXCUSE AN ABSENCE

CALL	Elementary: 509-291-7425 Middle School: 509-291-7425 High School: 509-291-3721
EMAIL	Freeman Elementary School: FESoffice@freemansd.org Freeman Middle School: FMSoffice@freemansd.org Freeman High School: FHSoffice@freemansd.org
NOTE	Send a note with your child to school. You can easily excuse an absence using any of these methods. Remember: you have 10 days from the date of the absence to excuse it.

HOW FAMILIES CAN HELP

- **Build routines.** Consistent bedtimes, morning routines, and preparing the night before can make school mornings easier.
- **Communicate early.** Let the school know when your child will be absent.
- **Check attendance.** Watch for patterns before a few absences become a larger concern.
- **Ask for help.** If transportation, health, anxiety, family circumstances, or another barrier makes attendance difficult, contact the school—we want to partner with you.
- **Reconnect after an absence.** Help your child return to routines and learning.

OUR GOAL IS NOT PERFECTION—IT IS CONNECTION.

Children will sometimes need to be absent. Illness, appointments, family emergencies, and other circumstances happen. Our goal is to help students attend as regularly as possible and make sure families have the support they need.

A QUICK ATTENDANCE CHECK

Is my child attending regularly?	Notice patterns
Are absences becoming more frequent?	Reach out early
Is there a barrier we can solve together?	Partner with school

Research basis: Attendance Works; UChicago Consortium/Attendance Works research on chronic absence and student outcomes. Research consistently identifies regular attendance as an important opportunity for learning, relationships, and school connection.