## Sec. 1. COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

A student who is at least six years of age, or who is younger than six and has previously been enrolled in first grade, and who has not yet reached his or her 19th birthday shall attend school, as well as any applicable accelerated instruction program, extended year program, or tutorial session, unless the student is otherwise excused from attendance or legally exempt. On enrollment in kindergarten or prekindergarten, a student shall attend school. *Tex. Educ. Code § 25.085(a)-(c)*.

## Sec. 2. STUDENTS 19 AND OVER: VOLUNTARY ENROLLMENT

A student who voluntarily enrolls in school or voluntarily attends school after the student's 19th birthday shall attend school each school day for the entire period the program of instruction is offered. If a student 19 or older has more than five unexcused absences in a semester, Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc. (AAL) may revoke the student's enrollment, except that AAL may not revoke the enrollment on a day on which the student is physically present at school. The student's presence on school property thereafter is unauthorized and may be considered trespassing.

Prior to revoking the student's enrollment, AAL shall issue a warning letter to the student, after the student's third unexcused absence, stating that the student's enrollment may be revoked for the remainder of the school year if the student has more than five unexcused absences in a semester. As an alternative to revoking enrollment, AAL may impose a behavior improvement plan described by Texas Education Code § 29.0915.

*Tex. Educ. Code § 25.085(e), (g)*.

## Sec. 3. ACCELERATED INSTRUCTION

Unless exempted by law, a student must also attend:

1. An extended-year program for which the student is eligible that is provided by AAL for students identified as likely not to be promoted to the next grade level or tutorial classes required by AAL under Texas Education Code § 29.084;
2. A reading intervention program to which the student is assigned under Texas Education Code § 28.0064;
3. An accelerated instruction program instruction program to which the student is assigned under Texas Education Code § 28.0211;
4. A basic skills program to which the student is assigned under Texas Education Code §29.086; or
5. A summer program provided under Texas Education Code § 37.008(l) or 37.021.

*Tex. Educ. Code § 25.085(d)*.



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**Sec. 4. EXCUSED ABSENCES**

A student may be excused for temporary absences resulting from any cause acceptable to the teacher, Principal, or Superintendent. *Tex. Educ. Code § 25.087(a)*.

**a) *Absence, Including Travel***

AAL will excuse a student from attending school for the following purposes, including travel for those purposes:

1. *Observing religious holy days.* A student who is observing holy days is allowed up to one day of excused travel for travelling to the site where the student will observe the holy days and up to one day of excused travel for traveling from that site. For purposes of this form of absence, AAL may not require documentation from a clergy member or other religious leader and shall accept a note from the student's parent or person standing in parental relation verifying the purpose of the student's absence.
2. *Required court appearances*. A student who is attending a required court appearance is allowed up to one day of excused travel for traveling to the site where the student will attend the required court appearance and up to one day of excused travel for traveling from that site.
3. *Citizenship proceedings*. A student who is appearing at a governmental office to complete paperwork required in connection with the student's application for United States citizenship is allowed up to one day of excused travel for travelling to the site where the student will complete the paperwork and up to one day of excused travel for traveling from that site.
4. *Naturalization ceremonies*. A student who is taking part in a United States naturalization oath ceremony is allowed up to one day of excused travel for traveling to the site where the student will take part in the ceremony and up to one day of excused travel for traveling from that site.
5. *Service as election clerk*. A student who is serving as an election clerk is allowed up to one day of excused travel for traveling to the site where the student will serve as an election clerk and up to one day of excused travel for traveling from that site. AAL may excuse a maximum of two days per school year for this purpose.
6. *DFPS conservatorship*. Student absence will be excused for a student who is in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services ("DFPS") who misses school:
    a. To participate in an activity ordered by a court under Texas Family Code Chapter 262 or 263, provided that it is not practicable to schedule the participation outside of school hours; or
    b. To attend a mental health or therapy appointment or family visitation as ordered by a court under Texas Family Code Chapter 262 or 263.



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7. *Released time course attendance*. A student will be excused for at least one but not more than five hours per week to attend a released time course, in accordance with Texas Education Code § 25.0875.

*Tex. Educ. Code § 25.087(b)(1)(A)-(G)*.

**b) *Health Care Appointments***

Temporary absence resulting from an appointment with a health-care professional, including a mental health professional, for the student or the student's child will be excused if the student commences classes or returns to school on the same day of the appointment.

A temporary absence 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 to receive a generally recognized service for persons with autism spectrum disorder, including applied behavior analysis, speech therapy, and occupational therapy.

*Tex. Educ. Code §§ 25.087(b)(2), (b-3)*.

**c) *Serious or Life-Threatening Illness or Related Treatment***

An absence will be excused if it results from a serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment that makes the student's attendance infeasible. The student or the student's parent or guardian must provide on a form adopted by AAL a certification from a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Texas specifying the following information, as determined by the physician:

1. The student's illness;
2. A statement that the illness is serious or life-threatening;
3. The anticipated period of the student's absence relating to the illness or related treatment; and
4. A statement that the illness makes the student's attendance infeasible during the anticipated period of absence.

AAL may not require the student or the student's parent or guardian to provide more documentation or information than is required by the form adopted by the school.

*Tex. Educ. Code § 25.087(b)(3), (g)*.



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**d)** ***Military Dependents***

AAL shall excuse a student whose parent, stepparent, or legal guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services 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. AAL may not excuse a student under this provision more than five days in a school year. An excused absence for this reason must be taken not earlier than the 60th day before the date of deployment or not later than the 30th day after the date of return from deployment. *Tex. Educ. Code § 25.087(b-4)*.

**e)** ***Military Enlistment***

AAL 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. AAL may not excuse a student for this purpose more than four days of school during the period the student is enrolled in high school. AAL shall verify the student's activities are related to pursuing enlistment in a branch of the armed services or the National Guard. *Tex. Educ. Code § 25.087(b-5)*.

**Sec. 5. PARENTAL CONSENT FOR ABSENCE**

A student absent from school for any portion of a school day shall provide a note to the campus office upon return, signed by the parent or medical provider (see below) that describes the reason for the absence. A note signed by the student, even with the parent's permission, will not be accepted unless the student is 18 or older.

**Sec. 6. FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTE**

Upon return to school, a student who has been absent and who fails within three days of the student's absence to bring a statement from a parent or medical provide verifying the illness or condition that caused the student's absence, the absence will be unexcused.

**Sec. 7. MAKE-UP WORK**

The student shall be allowed a reasonable time to make up schoolwork missed on the days describe above. If the student satisfactorily completes the work, the days of absence shall be counted as days of compulsory attendance. The student shall not be penalized for the absence. The Superintendent or designee shall prepare procedures for acceptance of make-up work.



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**Sec. 8. NOTICES TO PARENTS**

AAL shall notify a student's parents in writing at the beginning of the school year that, if a student is absent from school on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year: (i) the student's parent is subject to prosecution under Texas Education Code § 25.093; and (ii) the student is subject to referral to a truancy court for truant conduct under Texas Family Code § 65.003(a). *Tex. Educ. Code § 25.095(a)*.

**Sec. 9. NOTICE OF ABSENCES**

AAL shall notify a student's parent if the student has been absent from school without excuse on three days or parts of days within a four-week period. The notice must:

1. Inform the parent that:
   a. It is the parent's duty to monitor the student's school attendance and require the student to attend school,
   b. The student is subject to truancy prevention measures under Texas Education Code § 25.0915; and
2. Request a conference between school officials and the parent to discuss the absences.

*Tex. Educ. Code § 25.095(b)*.

**Sec. 10. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE**

AAL employees must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent without permission from school; from any class; from required special programs, such as additional special instruction, termed "accelerated instruction" by the state; or from required tutorials will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action.

If a student fails to attend school without excuse on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, AAL shall, within ten school days of the student's tenth absence, refer the student to a truancy court for truant conduct under Texas Family Code § 65.003(a). AAL may also file a complaint against the student's parent in a county, justice, or municipal court for an offense under Texas Education Code § 25.093 if AAL provides evidence of the parent's criminal negligence.

*Tex. Educ. Code § 25.0951*.

AAL may delay a referral of a student for truant conduct, or may choose to not refer a student for truant conduct, if AAL is applying truancy prevention measures to the student under Texas Education Code § 25.0915 and determines that the truancy prevention measures are succeeding



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and it is in the best interest of the student that a referral be delayed or not be made. *Tex. Educ. Code § 25.0951(d)*.

AAL shall initiate truancy prevention measures under Texas Education Code § 25.0915 on a student, if the student fails to attend school without excuse on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period, but does not fail to attend school for the time specified above. *Tex. Educ. Code 25.0915(a-4)*.

AAL and a parent against whom a complaint for parent contributing to nonattendance has been filed may enter into a written agreement requiring the parent to complete counseling, training, or another program as required by AAL. A parent who fulfills the terms of an agreement not later than the 30th day after the date on which the complaint was filed or within the period provided by the agreement is entitled to dismissal of the complaint. *Tex. Educ. Code § 25.094*.

**a) *Truancy Prevention Measures***

In an effort to prevent truancy and to reduce the need for referrals to truancy court, AAL will take one or more of the following truancy prevention measures applicable to students identified as potential truants, designed to address student conduct related to truancy in the school setting before the student engages in truancy:

1. Impose a behavior improvement plan on the student signed by a AAL employee, that AAL has made a good faith effort to have signed by the student and the student's parent or guardian, and that includes:
   a. Specific description of the behavior that is required or prohibited for the student;
   b. The period for which the plan will be effective, not to exceed 45 school days after the date the contract; or
   c. The penalties for additional absences, including additional disciplinary action or the referral of the student to a truancy court; or
2. Impose school-based community service; or
3. Refer the student to counseling, mediation, mentoring, a teen court program, community-based services, or other in-school or out-of-school services aimed at addressing the student's truancy.

*Tex. Educ. Code § 25.0915(a-1).*

AAL shall offer additional counseling to a student and may not refer the student to truancy court if the school determines that the student's truancy is the result of:

1. Pregnancy;
2. Being in the state foster program;
3. Homelessness;



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4. Severe or life-threatening illness or related treatment; or
5. Being the principal income earner for the student's family.

*Tex. Educ. Code § 25.0915(a-3).*

**b) *Filing Requirements***

Each referral to a truancy court must include a statement from AAL certifying that AAL applied truancy prevention measures to the student and that the truancy prevention measures failed to meaningfully address the student's school attendance. The referral must also specify whether the student is eligible for or receives special education services. *Tex. Educ. Code § 25.0915(b).*

## Sec. 11. PARENTAL CONSENT FOR A STUDENT TO LEAVE CAMPUS

AAL operates a closed campus. Students are not allowed to leave for any reason during the school day without properly checking out in accordance with campus rules and procedures.



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