



DeSoto Independent School District

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The goal for DeSoto Independent School District's Truancy Department is to ensure every child has an opportunity to receive a great education. Providing this information will assist parents and will assist students with being successful academically and socially. We hope providing this awareness helps families understand why attendance matters.



**WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS:
TIPS AND ANSWERS TO YOUR
TRUANCY QUESTIONS**



**Preparing students
academically and socially to be a
problem solvers and productive citizens.
#TogetherWeWill**

WHAT IS TRUANCY?

Sec.25.0951.: Truancy is when a student fails to attend school without an excuse on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year.

HOW TO PREVENT TRUANT CONDUCT

- Communicate with your child's teacher, campus attendance clerk, or campus administrator.
- Provide written documentation when your child is absent.
- Stay connected with your parent portal to follow attendance, grades, and more.
- Familiarize yourself with the district student code of conduct on attendance and truancy.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

- Your child must be present 90% of the time class is instructed to receive credit or a final grade. This is related to excused and unexcused absences. For example, your child can receive A's and B's, but if 17 days (excused or unexcused) of the 173 school days scheduled is missed this rule will apply.
- **Texas Education Code: Section 25.085 Compulsory Attendance Law**
- **Texas Education Code: Section 25.093 Parents Contributing to Non-Attendance**
- **Texas Education Code: Section 25.095 Warning Notices**



TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Be aware of what time your child's school begins and ends.
- Share the previous information with your child.
- Know the difference between an excused and unexcused absence.
- Your child has to meet 90% seat time.
- Remain in consistent communication with your child's teacher regarding attendance and behavior.
- Make sure your contact information (phone email, home address, work number) are correct and updated in parent portal.
- Please contact your child's campus if assistance is needed with Parent Portal login.
- Do not allow your child to have access to your Parent Portal.
- Go through your child's phone, know their passwords, stay connected with their social media.
- Build a relationship with the principal, teachers, attendance clerks, and your child's friends.
- Become a volunteer.
- Encourage your child to participate in school organizations, clubs, or sports.
- Talk to your child about not being afraid or ashamed to ask for help.
- Explain to your child how not attending school will affect them. If you need assistance, don't be afraid to ask.
- Seek help if you notice your child's behavior changes and they become withdrawn, distant, aggressive, or depressed.
- Reward good attendance.
- If your child is struggling with subjects don't be afraid to get them a tutor.
- Ask your child what they need from you to help them through school.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- When your child reaches 3 unexcused absences you will receive a warning letter at the address provided in your parent portal.
- If absences are not excused, a parent meeting will be scheduled to discuss absences and complete a Student Attendance/Behavior Plan.
- After Attendance Plan is completed, your child will receive follow up check-ins from our Student Support Services Department.
- If absences continue, a home visit will be conducted by the Truancy Department.



- If your child reaches 10 unexcused absences within a six month period within the same school year a petition will be filed in truancy court.
- The Truancy Department will give a reminder call 1-2 days before the court hearing.
- After the court hearing a resource list will be provided for assistance.
- After court, the student will receive follow-up services from Student Support Services Department until the next court hearing date.
- The Truancy Department will provide a follow-up call to the parent 1-2 days after court hearing to provide clarity if needed and recap court orders.