

Texas Truancy Law

Texas Education Code (25.085) Compulsory School Attendance

1. A child who is required to attend school under this section **shall attend school each school day** for the entire period, the program of instruction is provided.
 - o A child who is at least 6 years of age, or who is younger than 6 years and has previously been enrolled in first grade, and who has not yet reached the child's 19th birthday **shall attend school** (unless specifically exempted by the Education Code).
2. A student enrolled in a school district **must attend** (unless specifically exempted by section 25.086) for **the following programs**:
 - o An **extended-year program** for which the student is eligible is provided by the district for students identified as likely not to be promoted to the next grade level or tutorial classes to include Accelerated Instructional Programs required by the district under Section 29.084,
 - o An **accelerated reading instruction program** to which the student is assigned under Section 28.006,
 - o An **accelerated instruction program** to which the student is assigned under Section 28.0211,
 - o A **basic skills program** to which the student is assigned under Section 29.086 and
 - o A **summer program** provided under Section 37.008.
3. 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 time period the program of instruction is offered. A school district may revoke the enrollment of a person, for the remainder of the school year, who has more than five unexcused absences in a semester.

My Child Was Absent!

Provide the office documentation for the absence or early pick up by the time the student returns to school.

- o Send a physical note to school **or**
- o Email the note to Ms. Duran

** Three (3) handwritten notes can be used to excuse absences per semester. All notes following this amount are subject to administrator approval.*

My Child Has COVID/flu!

- o Contact the school nurse
- o Provide a doctor's note or picture of rapid test with student's name, DOB, and date of test (written on test)
- o Remote conferencing is available for students who are unable to attend school due to a temporary medical or psychological condition

Ms. Duran, Attendance Clerk
915.877.7705
rduran@canutillo-isd.org

Ms. Rocha-Blair, Nurse
915.877.7710
jrochablair@canutillo-isd.org

Mr. Flores, Parent Liaison
915.877.7739
fflores@canutillo-isd.org

Ms. Lazos, Assistant Principal
915.877.7704
slazos@canutillo-isd.org

Bill Childress Elementary

Canutillo ISD



**Attend Today,
Achieve Tomorrow**

Every Day Counts

School Attendance Family Handbook

**7700 Cap Carter Rd
Vinton, TX 79821
Main Office 915.877.7700**

Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

Attending school regularly helps children feel positive about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in elementary school so they learn that going to school on time, every day is important. Eventually good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and college.

Two Kinds of Absences

Excused Absence: parent provided documentation (ex. doctor's note) to the school explaining a student's absence

Unexcused Absence: parent **did not** provide documentation that explains a student's absence

Excessive unexcused absences will result in a *truancy action plan* (TAP). TAPs are created to support increasing attendance through interventions at the student/parent level. If a student's number of unexcused absences continues to grow, the student and/or parent will be referred to Truancy Court for further interventions and monetary fines may be assessed.

How Attendance Can be Supported at Home

- Make sure your child gets enough sleep each night
- Create healthy morning and evening routines
- Have a consistent plan (and back up plan!) for getting your child to and from school on time
- Teach the benefits of good attendance and consequences of poor attendance
- Post school calendars at home
- Make sure your child's school has accurate contact information (cell phone number and/or e-mail address)
- Have access to TEAMS and monitor your child's progress online
- Communicate any issues that may be affecting your child's attendance to the school
- Help your child develop a positive attitude towards school and encourage him/her to participate in school activities
- Make a conscious effort to have your child come to school every day

If takes a village to raise a child. We thank you for your partnership!

Every Instructional Minute Counts

When students miss a day, they miss a lot!

Help your child be exposed to as much instructional time as possible by...

- Planing vacations for non-school days only
- Schedule non-emergency medical and dental appointments outside of school hours
- If an appointment must be during school hours, please have your child attend school before the appointment and/or return to school after the appointment to complete the school day
- Communicate often with your child's teacher(s) and request assignments missed during absences



FAQs

- **What if I attend less than 90% of my class?** You may lose credit or the final grade for the class.
- **What if I have 3 or more unexcused absences?** Truancy interventions will be initiated for both student and parents.
- **What if I have 10 or more unexcused absences within a six month period?** The student and/or parent will be referred to Truancy Court for further interventions and monetary fines may be assessed.