

## Attendance Policies

### Excessive Absences:

If a student has had at least 5 unexcused absences, or absences for which the reasons are unknown, within a calendar month or 10 unexcused absences, or absences for which the reasons are unknown, within a 90 calendar day period, the student may be exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance and this may be considered excessive. The student may be referred to the school's child study team to determine if early patterns of truancy are developing. If it is determined that an early pattern of truancy is developing, regardless of whether the absences are excused or unexcused, a meeting with the parent/guardian shall be scheduled to identify potential remedies. If absences continue to be a concern, despite intervention attempts, the school may make a recommendation for filing a truancy petition. [§§1003.26 and 984.141, Florida Statutes]

### Truancy:

A habitual truant is defined by law as a student who has 15 unexcused absences within 90 calendar days, with or without the knowledge or consent of the parent/guardian. [§1003.01(8), Florida Statutes] Accumulated tardies and early check outs shall be considered unexcused absences. Four unexcused tardies or early check outs will equal one unexcused absence for the purpose of defining a habitual truant. The Superintendent must provide the Department of Highway and Motor Vehicles (DHMV) with the name of each habitual truant, age 14-18. The DHMV may not issue a driver's license or learner's driver's license to and shall suspend any previously issued license of any such student. [Chapter 322, Florida Statutes] Families receiving public assistance for a student through the State of Florida WAGES program may have that assistance withdrawn if the student is classified as truant. Students, 18 years of age and older, shall have all rights accorded to their records, unless they are dependent on their parent/guardian as defined in the Internal Revenue Code. Students, 18 years of age and older, in K-12 educational programs are required to be in compliance with attendance and discipline policies of the SCSD.

Students and families violating the state truancy law may face court action. [§§1003.27 and 1003.29, Florida Statutes]

- a. **Elementary and Middle School** – Student with absences is responsible for making arrangements with the teacher to make up all work and assignments within a reasonable time after their return to school. Arrangements to make up work are to be made with the teacher and are the responsibility of the student.
- b. **High School** – Daily school assignments missed because of an unexcused absence shall be made up for, at least, partial credit if made up within the reasonable time frame (two days for each day absent).

On the third unexcused absence within the previous 30 school days, a letter will be sent to the parent/guardian informing them of the compulsory school attendance law and their legal obligation to follow the law. Legal actions, including possible criminal charges, will be pursued when the parent/guardian ignores school attendance requirements.