



# Online Truancy Prevention class

MCALLEN ISD

# Regular attendance is key to your child's overall success

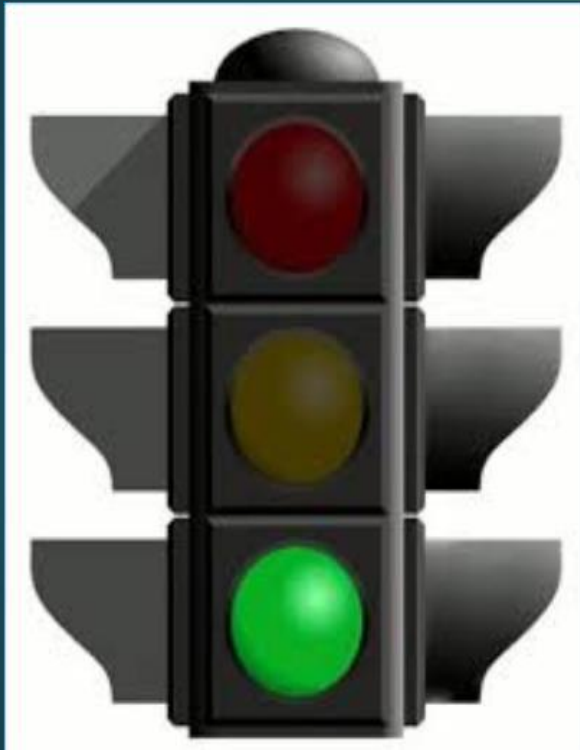
STUDENT SUCCESS BEGINS WITH GOOD ATTENDANCE. THE US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STATES THAT FOR EVERY MISSED DAY OF SCHOOL, IT TAKES A STUDENT 2 DAYS TO CATCH UP. THIS IS DIFFICULT BECAUSE THE STUDENT IS FORCED TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK AT THE SAME TIME THEY ARE RECEIVING NEW LEARNING.



**Attendance  
Matters**

Every student. Every day.

# Attendance Categories



A STUDENT WITH GOOD ATTENDANCE TENDS TO ACHIEVE HIGHER GRADES AND ENJOY 'S THE SCHOOL'S OVERALL EXPERIENCE MORE. THESE STUDENTS TEND TO MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND FEEL MORE CONNECTED TO THEIR SCHOOL.

GOOD ATTENDANCE IS 5 OR FEWER ABSENCES PER SCHOOL YEAR.

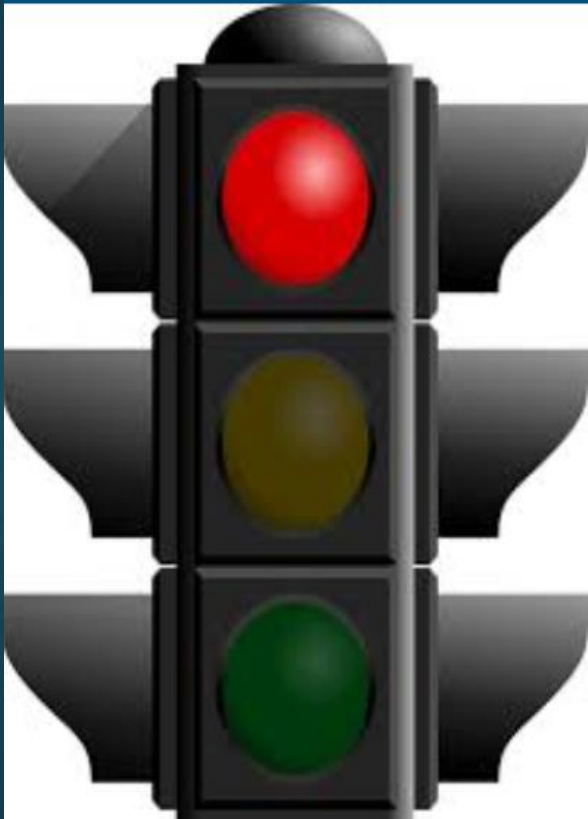
# Attendance Categories



A STUDENT WITH AVERAGE ATTENDANCE GENERALLY MISSES BETWEEN 5 TO 9 ABSENCES A SCHOOL YEAR AND WILL NEED TO SPEND EXTRA TIME CATCHING UP ON SCHOOL WORK TO AVOID UNDERACHIEVING.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE IS 5 TO 9 ABSENCES PER SCHOOL YEAR.

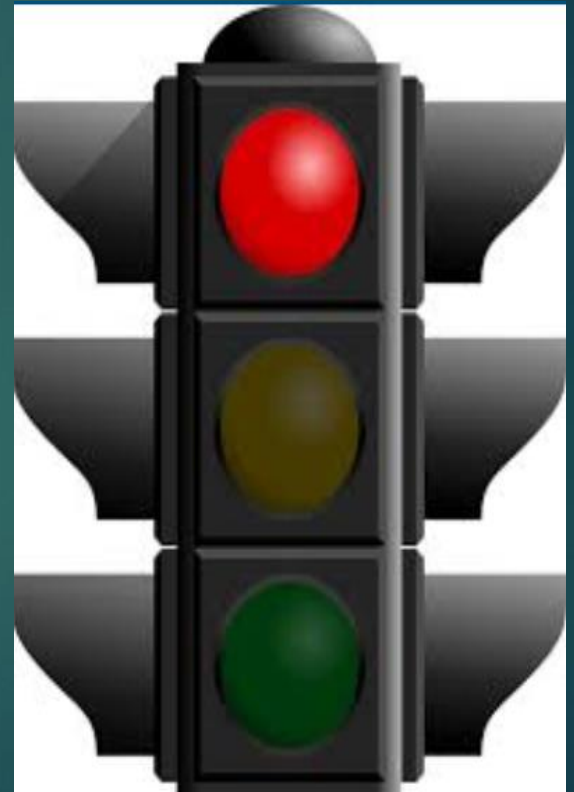
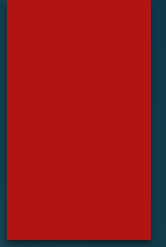
# Attendance Categories



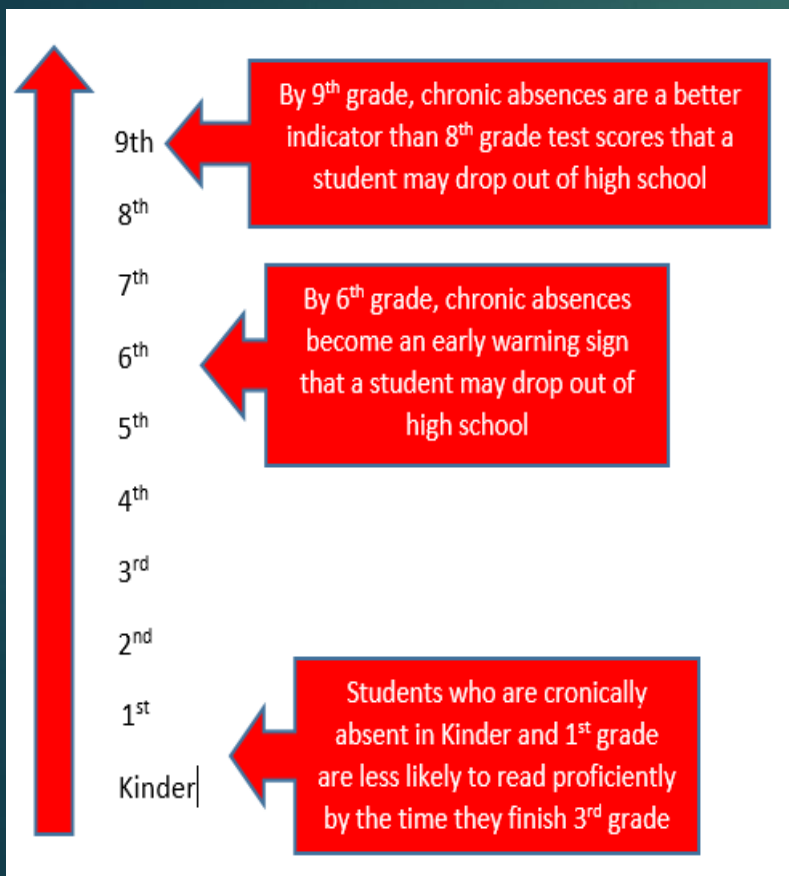
A STUDENT WITH CHRONIC ABSENCES LOOSES OPPORTUNITIES TO GAIN BASIC SOCIAL AND ACADEMIC SKILLS THAT ARE CRUCIAL TO ONGOING ACADEMIC SUCCESS. THESE STUDENTS ARE AT RISK OF EVENTUALLY DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL. .

CHRONIC ABSENCES IS ABOVE 10 ABSENCES PER SCHOOL YEAR.

# What category is your child in?



# Why does this matter?



**STUDENTS WITH POOR ATTENDANCE USUALLY HAVE HIGHER RATES OF DETENTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS. IN ADDITION, THEY ARE AT HIGHER RISK OF LOOSING CREDITS.**

**MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CHRONICALLY ABSENT HAVE DIFFICULTY PERFORMING ON GRADE LEVEL IN READING AND MATH.**

**BY 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE, CHRONIC ABSENCES BECOME A LEADING INDICATOR THAT A STUDENT MAY DROP OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL.**



# What does state law say?



## TEXAS EDUCATION CODE 25.085

STATE LAW REQUIRES CHILDREN TO ATTEND SCHOOL EACH DAY THAT INSTRUCTION IS PROVIDED.



# What does state law say?



## TEXAS EDUCATION CODE 25.095

WARNING NOTICES: A SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL NOTIFY A STUDENT'S PARENT IF THE STUDENT IS ABSENT WITHOUT AN EXCUSE ON 3 DAYS OR PARTS OF DAYS WITHIN A 4 WEEK PERIOD.

PARENTS SHALL RECEIVE NOTIFICATION IF THE STUDENT IS ABSENT FOR 10 OR MORE DAYS OR PARTS OF DAYS WITHIN A 6 MONTH PERIOD AND BE INFORMED THEY ARE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION.

# What does state law say?



## TEXAS EDUCATION CODE

### 25.093

PARENT CONTRIBUTING TO NON-ATTENDANCE.

IF WARNING NOTICES ARE ISSUED AND THE PARENT FAILS TO REQUIRE THE CHILD TO ATTEND SCHOOL AS REQUIRED BY LAW, THE PARENT COMMITS AN OFFENSE.

PARENTS MAY RECEIVES FINES FROM \$100 TO \$500.

# What does state law say?



## TEXAS FAMILY CODE SECTION 65.003

A CHILD ENGAGES IN TRUANT CONDUCT IF THE CHILD IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND SCHOOL UNDER TEC 25.085 AND FAILS TO ATTEND SCHOOL.

WHEN A STUDENT IS ABSENT FOR 10 OR MORE DAYS OR PARTS OF DAYS WITHIN A 6 MONTH PERIOD IN THE SAME SCHOOL YEAR, COURT ACTION MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST THE STUDENT AND/OR PARENT.

# What absences are excused by law?



## PERFECT ATTENDANCE IS THE GOAL.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE REQUIRED TO EXCUSE A STUDENTS ABSENCE FOR REASONS LISTED IN MCALLEN ISD'S SCHOOL BOARD POLICY FEA(LEGAL).

EXAMPLES ARE:

RELIGIOUS HOLYDAYS

COURT APPEARANCES

HEALTH CARE APPOINTMENTS

CITIZENSHIP PROCEEDINGS

# What constitutes a medical absence by law?



**STUDENTS WHO BEGIN CLASSES OR RETURN TO SCHOOL ON THE SAME DAY OF A MEDICAL APPOINTMENT WILL NOT RECEIVE AN ABSENCE. THE APPOINTMENT MUST BE SUPPORTED BY DOCUMENTATION FROM A HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL.**

# What absences are excused by McAllen ISD?

**EVERY**  
**SCHOOL DAY**  
**counts**

MCALLEN ISD HAS IT'S OWN CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING WHAT ELSE IS CONSIDERED AN EXCUSED ABSENCE. GENERALLY, THE FOLLOWING ABSENCES MAY QUALIFY AS EXCUSED ABSENCES AFTER REVIEW BY THE CAMPUS PRINCIPAL.

EXAMPLES ARE:

PERSONAL ILLNESS

DEATH OF AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER

MEDICAL TREATMENT

IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER EMERGENCY



# What absences are NOT excused by McAllen ISD?



EXAMPLES OF UNEXCUSED ABSENCES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

SKIPPING CLASS

CAR TROUBLE

OVER SLEEPING

VACATION

PERSONAL BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT FOR A SIBLING OR PARENT



# What do you do when your child is absent?



A **HANDWRITTEN NOTE** OR **EMAIL** FROM THE PARENT TO THE CAMPUS (EXPLAINING THE REASON FOR THE ABSENCE) IS REQUIRED WHEN A STUDENT IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL. THIS DOCUMENTATION MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 3 SCHOOL DAYS AFTER YOUR CHILD RETURNED TO SCHOOL.

WE WILL NOT ACCEPT PHONE CALLS AS ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTATION.

UNLESS THE ABSENCE IS FOR AN ALLOWED REASON UNDER COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAWS, THE DISTRICT WILL NOT EXCUSE ANY ABSENCE, EVEN IF THE PARENT PROVIDES A NOTE EXPLAINING THE ABSENCE.

# What is the 90% rule?



ACCORDING TO MCALLEN ISD'S FEC (LEGAL) POLICY, A STUDENT IN ANY GRADE LEVEL FROM KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12 SHALL NOT BE GIVEN CREDIT OR FINAL GRADE FOR A CLASS UNLESS THE STUDENT IS IN ATTENDANCE 90 PERCENT OF THE DAYS THE CLASS IS OFFERED. THE 90 PERCENT RULE APPLIES TO ALL ABSENCES.

# What is the 90% rule?



ACCORDING TO MCALLEN ISD'S FEC (LEGAL) POLICY, A STUDENT WHO ATTENDS AT LEAST 75 PERCENT, BUT FEWER THAN 90 PERCENT OF THE DAYS CLASSES ARE OFFERED MAY RECEIVE CREDIT FOR THE CLASS IF THE STUDENT COMPLETES AN INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN APPROVED BY THE PRINCIPAL AND THE CAMPUS ATTENDANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE.

# What can a parent do to be proactive with attendance?



**PAY ATTENTION TO THE PHONE CALLS AND EMAILS FROM YOUR CHILD'S CAMPUS EVERY TIME YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT. YOU WILL ONLY RECEIVE THESE CALLS/EMAILS WHEN YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN MARKED ABSENT.**

**CONTACT THE SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY IF YOU BELIEVE THERE IS AN ERROR WITH YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE.**

# What can a parent do to be proactive with attendance?



TURN IN A NOTE EVERY TIME YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT. DO NOT RELY ON YOUR CHILD TO TURN IN A NOTE. PARENT NOTES AND DOCTOR'S NOTES SHOULD BE EMAILED OR HANDED TO THE CAMPUS ATTENDANCE CLERK.

IF YOU ARE SIGNING YOUR CHILD OUT FOR A DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT, A NOTE FROM A MEDICAL PROVIDER IS REQUIRED, OTHERWISE PLEASE FOLLOW UP WITH A PARENT NOTE EXPLAINING WHY YOUR CHILD WAS ABSENT.



# What can a parent do to be proactive with attendance?



TRY TO SCHEDULE MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL OR WHEN SCHOOL IS NOT IN SESSION. WHEN APPOINTMENTS MUST BE MADE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY, SCHEDULE THE APPOINTMENTS TO ALLOW YOU CHILD TO ATTEND SCHOOL A PART OF THE SCHOOL DAY. MAKE SURE YOU TURN IN A NOTE/EXCUSE TO THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE.

# Truancy Class Quiz



CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW TO COMPLETE THE QUIZ REQUIRED TO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR THIS TRUANCY CLASS. YOU MUST RECEIVE A SCORE OF 80 OR HIGHER TO PASS THIS QUIZ. YOU MAY TAKE THE QUIZ AS OFTEN AS NEEDED TO OBTAIN THIS SCORE. PLEASE PRINT A COPY OF THE QUIZ RESULTS FOR YOUR RECORDS.

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/MJGGTCWHFX2Q3H399](https://forms.gle/MJGGTCWHFX2Q3H399)