

ATTENDANCE
COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

FEA
(LOCAL)

**Enforcing
Compulsory
Attendance**

Students in violation of the compulsory attendance law shall be reported to the District attendance officer, who may institute court action as provided by law.

**Students Aged 19
and Over**

A student who voluntarily enrolls in or attends school after the student's 19th birthday shall attend school until the end of the school year.

A student who is at least 19 years old and is voluntarily enrolled in or attending school when the student accumulates more than five unexcused absences in a semester may be withdrawn. In such cases, enrollment may be revoked for the remainder of the school year, except that the District may not revoke enrollment on a day on which the student is physically present at school.

A student who is withdrawn from school under this provision shall be considered a dropout for accountability purposes unless the student returns to school during the school-start window the following fall.

Excused Absences

In addition to excused absences required by law, the District shall excuse absences for the following purposes. A student shall be required to submit verification of these absences in accordance with administrative regulations.

Postsecondary
~~Higher Education~~
Visits

The District shall excuse a student during a student's junior and senior year for the student to visit institutes of higher education, trade schools, or military institutions. By virtue of the *District of Innovation Plan* adopted by the School Board on December 14, 2023, the District is exempted from Texas Education Code 25.087(b-2) and has the flexibility to excuse more than two absences and to excuse visits to both trade schools and military institutions. ~~for up to two days during the student's junior year and up to two days during the student's senior year to visit an accredited institution of higher education to determine the student's interest in attending the institution of higher education.~~

Career Investigation

The District shall excuse a student for up to two days during the student's junior year and up to two days during the student's senior year to visit a professional's workplace for purposes of exploring the student's interest in pursuing a career in that professional's field.

Military Dependents

The District shall excuse a student for up to five days, whose parent, step-parent, or guardian is an active duty member of the armed forces, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from continuous deployment of at least four months, to visit with the student's parent, step-parent, or guardian.

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Armed Services
Enlistment

The District shall excuse a student 17 years of age or older for up to four days during the student's enrollment in high school for activities related to pursuing enlistment in a branch of the U.S. Armed Services or Texas National Guard.

Early Voting or
Election Clerk

The District shall excuse a student for up to two days per school year to serve as an early voting or election clerk.

Learner's or Driver's
License

The District shall excuse a student 15 years of age or older for one day during the student's enrollment in high school for each of the following:

- Visiting a driver's license office to obtain a learner license; or
- Visiting a driver's license office to obtain a driver's license.

[For extracurricular activity absences, see FM.]

**Withdrawal for
Students Whose
Whereabouts Are
Unknown**

The District may initiate withdrawal of a student under the age of 19 whose whereabouts can no longer be determined under the following conditions:

1. The student has been absent ~~ten~~10 consecutive school days; and
2. Repeated efforts by the attendance officer and/or principal to locate the student have been unsuccessful.

An Admission, Review, Dismissal/Individualized Education Program (ARD/IEP) Committee meeting is required for students with disabilities who are being considered for withdrawal from school because the student's whereabouts are unknown. The ARD/IEP committee should undertake additional efforts to locate the student. If the student cannot be located after these additional efforts, the District may initiate withdrawal of the student.

If students with disabilities have been absent ~~ten~~10 consecutive school days, the ARD/IEP Committee shall meet and determine whether an evaluation or re-evaluation is needed and revise the IEP to include strategies to target chronic absences. If the interventions developed by the ARD/IEP committee and truancy prevention measures fail to meaningfully address the student's conduct, the student may be referred to truancy court. Each referral to truancy court must specify whether the student is eligible for or receives special education services and must be accompanied by a statement from the student's school certifying that the school applied the truancy prevention measures, including the holding of an ARD/IEP committee meeting, and the measures failed to meaningfully address the student's school attendance.

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**Students Attending
Homeschools**

Students who are homeschooled are exempt from the compulsory attendance law to the same extent as students enrolled in private schools.

Adequate documentation of homeschooling for withdrawal shall consist of either a statement of withdrawal in accordance with FD(LOCAL) indicating the date homeschooling began, or a signed and dated letter from a parent or guardian indicating that the child is being homeschooled and the date the homeschooling began.

The District may request from a parent or guardian a letter of assurance that a child is being educated using a curriculum designed to meet basic education goals of reading, spelling, grammar, mathematics, and a study of good citizenship.

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If a parent or guardian refuses to submit a requested statement or letter, or if the District has evidence that a school-aged child is not being homeschooled within legal requirements, the District may investigate further and, if warranted, shall pursue legal action to enforce the compulsory attendance law.