

Llano ISD Compulsory Attendance Notice

Llano ISD is providing some information that will be helpful for you this school year. Llano ISD encourages all parents/guardians and students to read this Compulsory Attendance Notice in its entirety and to retain this notice for your records. This notice and student handbook will answer some of your questions, but please feel free to call the appropriate attendance secretary of your school for questions that need to be answered. Their contact information is as follows:

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In 2015, the Texas Legislature decided to no longer subject children to criminal convictions for truancy. House Bill 2398 created Title 3A in the Family Code and Chapter 65. Inside these provisions, a new legal system was created. Starting September 1, 2015, children's truancy cases will be civil actions. On the other hand, the **law regarding parents did not change. "Parent Contributing to the Non-Attendance of school" cases will continue to be subject to the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and may result in criminal convictions.**

The Texas Legislature started by eliminating "Failed to Attend School" criminal offenses. Instead, a newly created action called "**truant conduct**" was created and placed into the Family Code. "Truant conduct" is defined as:

A child engages in truant conduct if the child is required to attend school under Section 25.085, Texas Education Code, and fails to attend on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year without excuse. (Family Code Section 65.003(a))

As described above, municipal and justice of the peace courts maintain jurisdiction on these cases. It is merely a civil setting rather than criminal one for the student with "Truant Conduct".

Regular school attendance is essential for a student to make the most of his or her education to benefit from teacher-led and school activities, to build each day's learning on the previous day's and to grow as an individual. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student's mastery of the instructional materials; therefore, the student and parent should make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences.

Age 19 and Older

A student who voluntarily attends or enrolls after his or her 19th birthday is required to attend each school day until the end of the school year. If a student age 19 or older has more than 5 unexcused absences in a semester, the district may revoke the student's enrollment.

Between Age 6 and 19

State law requires that a student between the ages of 6 and 19 attend school, as well as any applicable accelerated instruction program, extended year program, or tutorial session, unless the student is otherwise excused from attendance or legally exempt.

Prekindergarten and Kindergarten

Students enrolled in prekindergarten or kindergarten are required to attend school and are subject to the compulsory attendance requirements as long as they remain enrolled.

Failure to Comply with Compulsory Attendance

All Grade Levels

School employees must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent without permission from school; from any class; from required special programs, such as additional special instruction, termed “accelerated instruction” by the state; or from required tutorials will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action.

Age 19 and Older

After a student age 19 or older incurs a third unexcused absence, the district will send the student a letter as required by law explaining that the district may revoke the student’s enrollment for the remainder of the school year if the student has more than 5 unexcused absences in a semester. As an alternative to revoking a student’s enrollment, the district may implement a behavior improvement plan.

Between Ages 6 and 19

When a student between ages 6 and 19 incurs unexcused absences for three (3) or more days or parts of days with in a four-week period, the school will send notice to the student’s parent(s), as required by law, to remind the parent(s) that it is the parent’s duty to monitor his or her child’s attendance and to require the student to come to school. The notice will also ask the parent(s) and student (age 12 or older) to attend an Attendance Awareness Meeting where they will be asked to sign an attendance contract.

After 6 unexcused absences within a six month period, the parent(s) and student (age 12 or older) will be asked to meet with the principal.

After 10 unexcused absences, truancy filings will be initiated by the school.

A court of law may also impose penalties against a student’s parent(s) if a school-aged student is deliberately not attending school. A complaint against the parent(s) may be filed in court if the student is absent without excuse from school on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year. If a student ages 12 through 18 incurs unexcused absences on 10 or more days or parts of days with in a six-month period in the same school year, the district, in most circumstances, will refer the student to truancy court.

Documentation after an Absence (All Grade Levels)

When a student is absent from school, the student-upon arrival or return to school-must bring a note signed by the parent that describes the reason for the absence. A note signed by the student, even with the parent’s permission, will not be accepted unless the student is 19 or older or is an emancipated minor under state law.

All Students absences must be verified in writing by a parent. Written verification of the absence must be received by the school attendance office within 48 hours of a student’s return to school. Documented phone calls will not take the place of a note sent to school by the parent(s). It is best to submit a handwritten note directly to the attendance office. However a faxed copy of a parent’s note or an e-mailed parent note is acceptable. If a note is not received within 48 hours of a student’s return, the absence then becomes unexcused.

All notes from parents should include the following: full name of student, date of absence, reason for absence (be specific or the absence could be marked unexcused), parent’s signature, and parent’s phone number.

All notes from doctors should include the above information as parent notes. Doctor notes are required once the 10 parent notes have been exhausted or the absence will be considered unexcused.

Absence Clarifications

Excused absences are those for personal illness, quarantine, weather or road conditions making travel hazardous, or any other unusual cases acceptable to the principal. Unusual cases must have prior approval by the principal.

Absences due to family vacations, family obligations/functions or any non-emergency travel will not be excused. In addition, campuses reserve the right to review on an individual basis absence due to funerals of family members.

Sign and Return to School

By signing this document, you acknowledge the following: I have received and reviewed a copy of the notification of attendance obligation of Llano ISD together with information on non-compliance with compulsory school attendance.

Student's Name: _____

School Grade: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____