

## **WEATHERFORD ISD – COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE**



Your child's success in school is dependent upon many things. The greatest variable in education success is your child's attendance in school, each and every day. We need your assistance in assuring that your child will be in school every day. The Texas Education Code is clear on the expectation of attendance in public school and the responsibility of the child's parents or guardians. This notice is to clarify those expectations.

The Texas Education Code (laws) 25.085 Compulsory Attendance law states that (a) a child who is required to attend school under this section shall attend each school day for the entire period the program of instruction is provided. (b) Unless specifically exempted by Section 25.086, a child who is at least six years of age, or who is younger than six years of age and has previously been enrolled in first grade, and who has not yet reached the child's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday shall attend school. (c) On enrollment in pre-kindergarten, a child shall attend school.

A parent/guardian of a school-age child has the responsibility to require that his/her child attend school regularly. If your child is absent from all or part of the school day, the parent or guardian should contact the school when the child is going to miss and, upon arrival or return to school, must bring a note signed by the parent / guardian or health care professional that describes the reason for the absence. The note explaining the reason for the absence must be presented to the office within three days of the student's return to school, or the absence will automatically be considered unexcused.

**Absences for vacations, business trips, babysitting, working, and other such reasons shall be considered unexcused.**

**Please be advised of the following:**

### **25.092. Minimum Attendance for Class Credit**

(a) A student may not be given credit for a class unless the student is in attendance for at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered.

### **25.093. Parent Contributing to Truancy**

(a) The parent with criminal negligence fails to require the child to attend school as required by law, and the child has absences for the amount of time specified under Section 25.094, the parent commits an offense and is subject to prosecution.

### **65.003 Texas Family Code Truant Conduct**

A child, 12 years of age or older, engages in truant conduct if the child is required to attend school under Section 25.085, Education Code, and fails to attend school on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year.

## **Truancy Enforcement**

The Texas Education Code 25.087 requires that upon your student fails to attend school without excuse on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period the district shall initiate truancy prevention measures. These measures include a compulsory attendance letter be mailed

to the students home address, a Behavior Improvement Plan initiated, and the parent/guardian be informed of the following:

- (A) It is the parent's duty to monitor the student's school attendance and require the student to attend school; and
- (B) The parent is subject to prosecution under Section 25.093; and a parent conference is requested between school officials and the parent to discuss the absences.
- (C) The fact that a parent did not receive a notice under Subsection (a) or (b) does not create a defense to prosecution under Section 25.093
- (D) In this section, "parent" includes a person standing in parental relation
- (E) Parts of days can include late arrivals at the beginning of the school day and/or early student pick-up.

For additional information, contact your child's campus or the Executive Director of School Operations at 817-598-2939