



COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE – EXCUSED ABSENCES

The State of Texas requires that all students at least six (6) years of age and not yet nineteen (19) attend school until they obtain a diploma. It is important that a student attend school each day. There is a strong connection between student attendance and academic performance at school. When students miss class, they miss out on learning.

We do recognize that perfect attendance is not always possible. Your child does not need to attend school if they are ill. 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. All notes should be provided within three days of returning to school.

When is an Absence Excused?

Here are the reasons considered for an ‘Excused’ absence (to meet compulsory attendance requirements):

- ❖ **Medical:** The student has a personal illness, doctor’s appointment, or an appointment with a health care professional. Note required for documentation.
- ❖ **Religious Holy Day:** The student is observing a recognized religious holy day.
- ❖ **Court Appearance:** The student is involved in court proceedings or is participating in an activity related to those court proceedings.
 - Student will need to provide a note from the court verifying the court proceedings.
- ❖ **College Campus Visit:** A High School junior or senior may visit a college campus two days each year of both years.
 - Student will need to bring documentation from the college verifying the visit.
- ❖ **Citizenship Activities:** The student is engaged in the process to secure their own U.S. Citizenship or participation in their own naturalization ceremony; serves as an election clerk, or participates in a military funeral by playing Taps.
- ❖ **Military Dependent:** Student has a parent or legal guardian who is an active duty military member who has been called for deployment, is on leave from, or immediately returned from a combat zone or combat support posting.
 - Up to five total days for the year.
- ❖ **Pre-Approved Reason:** A student may be excused for a temporary absence with prior approval by the child’s principal. This will not include vacations, non-Weatherford ISD sponsored sports events or activities, or illness other than the immediate family.
- ❖ **Dual Credit:** The student is attending an off campus dual credit course, approved by Weatherford ISD.

A student absent for more than three (3) consecutive days due to illness must bring a statement from the doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition. Should a student develop a questionable pattern of absences, the principal or attendance committee may require a statement from a doctor of health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student’s absence.

The final decision for all absences, excused or unexcused, is up to the campus principal