

NEW State Law Goes into Effect for 2018-19 School Year

School attendance is critical for successful student achievement. The Compulsory School Attendance Law in Tennessee (TCA-49-6-3001) requires children (ages 6-17 inclusive) to attend school each day. Students are considered **truant** upon accumulation of **5 unexcused absences**.

Progressive Truancy Intervention Plan

Beginning with the 2018-19 school year, any student accumulating 5 unexcused absences will enter into a *Progressive Truancy Intervention Plan*, which involves up to 3 tiers of intervention for the student and parent/guardian.

- *Tier 1 involves a conference to assess why the student has been absent and to implement an Attendance Contract with the parent, student, and school personnel.*
- *Tier 2 is initiated upon violation of the Attendance Contract. This tier involves the continuation of an Attendance Assessment to address continued absences by the Attendance Supervisor.*
- *Tier 3 is implemented upon continued unexcused absences and involves loss of participation in school-based activities and/or assignment to school-based community service.*

Unsuccessful completion of the Progressive Truancy Intervention Plan will result in the filing of a truancy petition with the Juvenile Court System.

Documentation to Excuse Absences

For every absence, the parent/guardian should provide official/adequate excuses directly to the school's Attendance Secretary upon return to school. These include:

- Parent note (up to five excused for student absences)
- Medical note (for which student was the patient)
- Court note (for which the student was required to be in court)
- Funeral note (obituary/funeral program for family members)
- Military deployment paperwork for military dependents

PLEASE NOTE: Out of school suspensions count as unexcused absences.

Every minute makes a difference. Don't miss a minute.