



## *Every Student, Every Day*

Families, as we transition from summer to the 2024-2025 school year, we want to remind you that every student's attendance, every day, is crucial to their academic success. We need your support to instill the habit of regular school attendance. It's important to understand that students who miss school frequently are at risk of lower academic achievement, failure, and even dropping out.

Regular school attendance not only contributes to academic success but also plays a significant role in boosting a child's self-esteem. By establishing this habit early on, children learn that attending and arriving on time to school daily is crucial. Good attendance not only helps children perform well in school but also prepares them for future work, fostering a sense of confidence and well-being.

“Every Student, Every Day” is our slogan to champion school attendance in our schools.

Below are some suggestions you may wish to consider supporting your child's attendance:

- Avoid scheduling vacations when school is in session. They may be considered unexcused absences.
- Establishing regular bedtime and morning routines can significantly improve your child's attendance. This will ensure your child is well-rested and prepared for the school day, reducing the likelihood of absences.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Talk about the importance of regular attendance and how your child feels about school.
- Only permit missing school if your child is genuinely sick. Use a thermometer to check for a fever. Remember that stomach aches and headaches may be signs of anxiety.
  - If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to help your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Avoid medical appointments when school is in session. A link to the District Calendar is [HERE](#).

<https://www.attendanceworks.org/>

Annually, handbooks outline various school policies that impact families and students. The District is taking extra steps to educate you on [Policy 204: Attendance](#).

District Policy 204: Attendance outlines the steps the District shall take regarding unexcused absences to support you and your child in improving attendance. Our actions follow compulsory attendance and truancy laws in Pennsylvania, as amended via Act 138 of 2016 (Act 138), Act 39 of 2018 (Act 39), and Act 16 of 2019 (Act 16).

Please note that absences shall be treated as unexcused until the District receives a written excuse explaining the absence, to be submitted within three (3) days of the absence.

To ensure that you are fully informed and aware of the consequences, below is a summary of steps the District is required to take by law for unexcused absences:

- 1) Within ten days of the third (3rd) unexcused absence in any one year, the District will notify you that your child is truant and that a Student Improvement Conference (SAIC) may be scheduled if the unexcused absences continue.
- 2) Following the third (3rd) unexcused absence (in any one school year), you will be contacted by the District to convene a Student Attendance Improvement Conference (SAIC.) Every effort will be made to ensure your attendance at this meeting; however, Pennsylvania Attendance Laws require the meeting to occur whether or not you can attend. A Student Attendance Improvement Plan (SAIP) will be developed at the SAIC, which will include positive, proactive strategies and non-exclusionary consequences.
  - a) Examples of positive, proactive strategies could include the support of school counselors, school social workers/home and school visitors, and community agencies.
  - b) Examples of non-exclusionary consequences could include exclusion from non-academic social events and/or co-curricular activities (e.g., attending and /or participating in after-school events).
- 3) Following the sixth (6th) unexcused absence (in any one school year), a student is considered habitually truant. The District needs to follow additional requirements based on the student's age:
  - a) For students younger than 15, the District *must* refer them to Children and Youth Services or a community-based school attendance program or file a citation with the District Magistrate.
  - b) For students between ages 15 and 18, the District *must* either refer the student to a community-based school attendance program or file a citation with the District Magistrate.