

Taylor County District Schools

K-8 Attendance Policy

According to FS 1003.26, any student between the ages of 6 and 16 is within compulsory school attendance age requiring regular school attendance. Parents of a child within the compulsory school attendance age shall be responsible for such child's school attendance as required by FS 1003.26. It is understood that ALL students K-5 will be subject to the stipulations within this attendance policy. Attendance is required of all students for at least 180 days of instruction or the equivalent as provided by law, except for absences which are excused or as otherwise provided by law.

Attendance is defined as the actual presence of a student at school or away from school on a school day engaged in an educational activity that constitutes a part of the school-approved instructional program.

Absence is defined as the nonattendance of a student on days that school is scheduled to be in session. Any tardy/absence of 10 minutes or more from a class will result in an absence from that class. Absences may be defined as excused or unexcused in accordance with local policy.

Excused Absences

In compliance with Florida School Laws, the Taylor County School Board recognizes excused absences as those resulting from the following:

- Absence resulting from sickness, injury or other insurmountable condition.
- Participation in an approved academic program or class.
- Participation in the observance of a religious holiday or in religious instruction.
- Death in the immediate family of the student. (Immediate family is defined as parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and in some cases, other persons in the household.)
 - Pre-excused doctor or dentist appointments.
 - Insurmountable weather conditions.

Make-Up Work:

- Students returning to school after an excused absence shall have a time period equal to the number of days excused or a minimum of 5 days, whichever is greater, to make up missed work. **IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THEIR TEACHERS TO COMPLETE MISSED WORK.** If reasonable doubt exists regarding a sickness or injury, the principal is authorized to require a statement from an accepted medical authority. **Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in the absence being unexcused.**
- If a student fails to bring a note within 3 school days after being absent, or if the reason is not a valid one, the student will receive an unexcused absence for the days missed and the following rules will apply:

In grades K through 8, students will receive full credit on work made up from an excused absence and will receive at least ½ credit on completed work missed during the unexcused absence.

Monitoring of Absences

During the nine weeks grading period the following procedures will take place:

- On the third absence, the student's school will make contact with the parent.
- On the fifth absence, the student's school will mail home a letter informing the parent of the five absences for the nine weeks and the consequences of such absences.

Compulsory School Attendance:

No parent or guardian of a child shall be held responsible for a child's non-attendance at school under the following conditions:

- The absence is with permission of the head of the school.
- The absence was without the parent's knowledge, consent, or connivance.
- Financial inability as reported in writing to the superintendent.
- An insurmountable condition or sickness or injury as attested to by written statement by a licensed practicing physician.

If a student has had at least 5 unexcused absences or absences from which the reasons are unknown, within a calendar month or 10 unexcused absences or absences for which the reasons are unknown, within a 90-calendar day period, the student's primary teacher shall report to the school principal that the student may be exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance.

Exceptions to the Attendance Policy:

1. Chronic or extended illness with doctor's verification.
2. A note from the hospital or physician to verify hospitalization.
3. Death in the immediate family requiring extended absence.
4. Court subpoena.