



## **A Parent's Guide To Understanding Attendance**

Student attendance directly impacts academic achievement, and state law requires children to attend school every day instruction is provided. Natalia ISD is committed to supporting families, improving attendance, and preventing dropouts through clear communication and proactive partnership.

### **Why Daily Attendance and Punctuality Matter**

- **Academic & Emotional Impact:** Missing just two days of school per month adds up to losing 10% of the school year. Chronic absenteeism leads to lower state assessment scores, failing grades, potential grade retention, and higher dropout rates. It can also contribute to lower self-confidence, feelings of academic inadequacy, and difficulty paying attention in class.
- **The Cost of Being Late:** Arriving just 10 minutes late every day results in 300 hours of lost instructional time over the course of the school year.

### **How to Monitor Your Child's Attendance**

- Request an attendance report from the campus attendance clerk at any time.
- Review attendance records listed on your child's report card.
- Keep your contact information current with the school office so you receive prompt absence notifications.

**Excused Absences & Strict Documentation Deadlines** An absence is marked as excused only when official documentation is submitted for one of the following reasons:

- Personal illness
- Death of an immediate family member
- Professional medical treatment
- Required court appearance
- **3-Day Note Submission Window:** Parents must turn in a written note or medical excuse to the attendance clerk within 3 school days of the student's return. Notes submitted after 3 days will not be accepted, and the absence will remain unexcused.
- **Doctor's Note Requirement:** Any illness resulting in 3 or more consecutive days of absence requires an official doctor's note to be excused.

### **Natalia ISD Truancy Prevention Interventions**

**1st Intervention:** 3 or more days (or parts of days) absent within a 4-week period

- A warning letter is sent to remind parents of their duty to monitor and require attendance. (Note: Mandatory attendance laws apply to PK and Kindergarten students voluntarily enrolled before age 6).

**2nd and 3rd Interventions:** Additional absences accumulate

- Another notice is issued initiating district truancy prevention measures and requesting a mandatory conference between administrators and parents (Including the student if secondary campus), followed by a Home-Visit as a final effort to prevent further absences.

**Final Intervention:** 10 or more unexcused days (or parts of days) in a 6 mth period in the same school year

- Legal court complaints may be filed against the guardian for deliberate non-attendance under state law.

### **State Legal Requirement: The 90 Percent Rule**

- **Credit & Grade Requirements:** Under Texas law, K-12 students must attend class at least 90% of the days offered to earn final course credit or a final grade.
- **All Absences Count:** The 90% rule applies to all absences, including excused absences.
- **Special Education & 504 Plans:** This legal standard applies universally, including for students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan.
- **Attendance Committee Review:** If a student drops below 90% attendance, a campus attendance committee will review the circumstances to determine if credit or a final grade can still be granted.