



## Natalia Independent School District

P.O. Box 548, 8<sup>th</sup> & Pearson St.

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### A Parent's Guide To Understanding Attendance

Student attendance is vital to the Natalia Independent School District since it directly impacts student achievement. Improving student attendance, and preventing and recovering dropouts are the district's goal. State law requires children to attend school each day that instruction is provided.

#### Failure to attend school may cause your student to:

- Display signs of poor self-confidence and Depression
- Display an inability to pay attention in class
- Feel academically inadequate compared to their peers
- Exhibit failing grades due to missing vital information
- Be Retained
- Drop out of school

*A student who misses just two days of school a month, misses out on 10 percent of the school year, affecting his/her academic performance. National and State statistics highlight students with chronic absenteeism often score lower on the state assessment exam.*

#### How can you check your child's attendance?

- Request an attendance report from the school attendance clerk
- Check your child's report card
- Ensure your contact information is correct on school records so that the school may contact you to report absences.

*Being late for school hurts a child's learning too. A student who is 10 minutes late every day will miss 300 hours of instruction during the year.*

### Natalia ISD District Truancy Preventative Measures

Natalia ISD uses intervention methods to ensure students do not incur excessive absences. Our campus/s follow the Natalia ISD preventative measures to support our Parents/Guardians in ensuring our students are in school every day.

- **First Intervention:** When a student incurs absences for three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period, the school will send a warning letter to the student's parents/guardians, **as required by law**, to remind the parent/guardians that it is the parent's duty to monitor his or her child's attendance, and to require the student to come to school. If you voluntarily enroll your child in prekindergarten or kindergarten before age 6, school attendance laws apply to your child, too.
- **Second and Third Intervention:** If additional absences occur, another notice will be issued to inform parents/guardians that the District will initiate truancy prevention measures and request a conference between school administrators and the parent/guardian.
- **Final Intervention:** Court cases are filed against a student's parent/guardian if a school-aged student is deliberately not attending school. A complaint against the parent may be filed in court if the student is absent without excuse for 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year.

**Although perfect attendance is the goal, it's not always possible. An absence may qualify as excused when documentation is presented to the campus administration in cases of:**

- Personal Illness
- Death of an immediate family member
- Medical treatment
- Attend a required court appearance

3 or more consecutive absences will require a Doctor's note. Any other absences will be considered unexcused. Students have only 3 days to submit a note to the attendance clerk, any notes received after 3 days will not be accepted. In addition to compulsory attendance law, districts are required to enforce the 90 percent rule, which states that students in grades K-12 must attend class for 90 percent of the time it is offered to receive credit or a final grade. The 90 percent rule applies to all absences, including excused absences. If the student doesn't meet this requirement, an attendance committee may grant the student credit or a final grade, depending on the circumstances. This rule applies even if your child has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan.

**"Building Lives, Utilizing Education"**