



Rockwall ISD Attendance Information

Dear Parent/Guardian:

RE: Understanding School Attendance under Texas State Law

Rockwall ISD is dedicated to helping your child achieve academic success. In order to maximize your child's academic opportunities, it is critical that they be in attendance at school every day. For your information, we have outlined the district procedures/policies and state laws related to attendance. We hope that this information is helpful to you and look forward to spending every instructional day possible with your child.

Compulsory Attendance Law (TEC Section 25.085)

- Students who are at least six years old as of September 1 of the school year are required to attend school through their 19th birthday. Students who are enrolled in prekindergarten or kindergarten shall attend school.
- Students who are 19 years old or older are required to attend each school day for the entire period of time the program of instruction is offered for which the student is enrolled.

Compulsory Attendance Enforcement (TEC Section 25.093/TFC 65.003)

- Students may not be absent unexcused from school for 10 or more days or parts of days within a 6-month period.
- State law requires that a school district may file a complaint in a truancy court against the parent and/or student in violation of the compulsory attendance laws. Each offense carries up to a \$500 fine per occurrence.

Ninety Percent Attendance Rule (TEC Section 25.092)

- In order to be granted credit or a final grade for a course or be promoted to the next grade level, a student in any grade level from kindergarten through grade 12 must attend at least 90% of the days the class is offered.
- If a student is in attendance for a course at least 75 percent but less than 90 percent of the days a class is offered, the student may be given an opportunity to regain credit by completing a plan approved by the principal that provides for the student to meet the instructional requirements of Pre-approval is required for reasons 3-8 in order to excuse the following:

1. Health appointments when the student returns to school the same day
2. Visitation with a family member who is on leave from active duty in the military
3. Religious holidays
4. Court appearances
5. College visitations
6. Naturalization/Citizenship appointments
7. Election Clerk Service
8. Grade 6-12 student who plays "Taps" at a military veteran's funeral

All require appropriate documentation.

Rockwall ISD understands there are times when your child will be absent. Documentation is required when this occurs. An electronic note submitted via Family Access or an original, signed note from a parent or doctor must be sent with the student indicating the reason for the absence. Notes are due the day the student returns to school. Any absence without a note will be unexcused after one week.

Texas law requires you to monitor your student's attendance and to require your student to attend school. RISD makes monitoring attendance and grades very simple through **Family Access**. This parent resource is available via any internet capable computer. For complete information on **Family Access**, log on to www.rockwallisd.org, select the **Parent** tab, and follow instructions to register for this program.