

Red Oak ISD Truancy Class

DREAMS

Produced by the ROISD Counseling & Family Services Department
in partnership with Truancy Administration.
ELEMENTARY PK-5



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Regular school attendance is the key to your child's success!

Student success begins with good attendance.

The US Dept. of Education state that for every missed day of school, it takes a student two days to catch up.

This is difficult because the student is forced to make up missed work at the same time they are receiving new instruction.

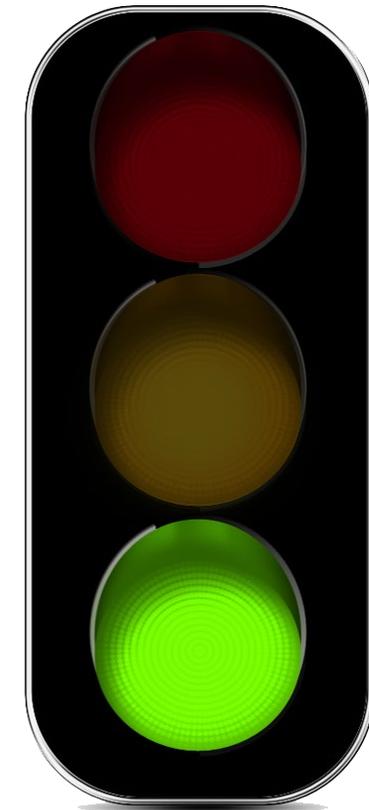


Attendance Categories

A student with **GOOD ATTENDANCE** generally achieves higher grades and enjoys school more. Your child will make the most of their educational opportunities and feel more connected to their school.

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Good Attendance is
9 or fewer absences
per school year.

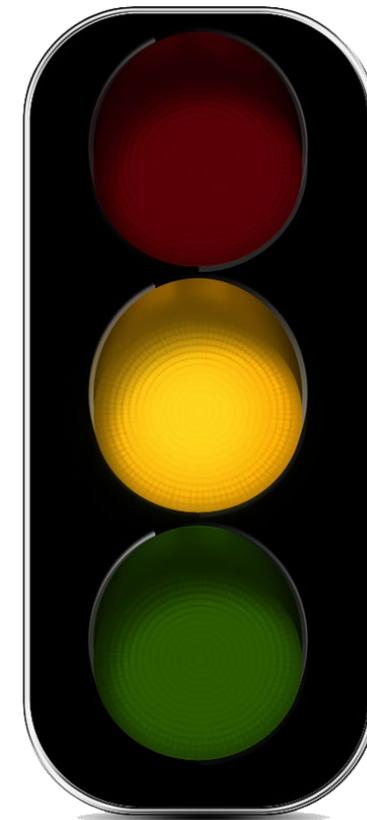


Attendance Categories

A student with AVERAGE ATTENDANCE generally misses a year's worth of school before their senior year. Your child will need to spend extra time catching up on school work to avoid underachieving, and likely make up missed time.

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Average Attendance is
10-17 absences
per school year.

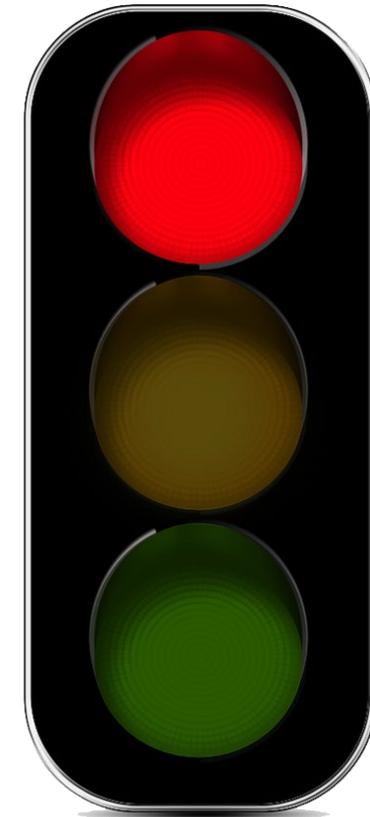


Attendance Categories

A student with CHRONIC ABSENCES may lose opportunities to gain basic academic and social skills that are critical to ongoing academic success. These students are at-risk of failing or dropping out.

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Chronic Absences is
18 or more absences
per school year.



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What category in your child in?



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Why does this matter?

- By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes the leading indicator that a student may drop out of high school.
- Middle and high school students chronically absent have difficulty performing on grade level in reading and math.
- By 9th grade, chronic absence is a better indicator than 8th grade test scores that a student will fail / drop out of high school.
- Students with poor attendance usually have higher rates of detentions and suspensions.
- Chronic absences often result in loss of course credit due to grades or attendance.



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How do absences add up?

Missing 2 days a month = 20 days a year

- 30 hours of math; 40-60 hours of reading & writing
- **Up to 1.5 years of school by graduation**

Missing 4 days a month = 40 days a year

- 60 hours of math; 80-120 hours of reading & writing
- **Up to 3 years of school by graduation!**



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Have you ever put a puzzle together without the picture or missing pieces?



It is hard, frustrating, impossible, and makes you want to quit.

This is how missing class can feel to a student.



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Connectivity & Accountability

- The more a student misses school, the less they feel connected.
- Students also are less engaged in school activities, extra-curricular, and social events.
- Peer accountability happens when a student is part of a group.



Texas State Law

Attending school is required (compulsory attendance) by the State of Texas (TX Ed Code 25.085):

- Parents can choose: public school, charter school, online school, or homeschool, but attendance is required.
- This applies to the following persons:
 - Children age 6 by Sept. 1 until age 19; unless expelled or a certain age and preparing for high school equivalency exam (GED)
 - Children below 6 by Sept. 1 who voluntarily enroll in prekindergarten or kindergarten



Texas State Law

Parents are held liable if a student has multiple absences and can be referred to court (Family Code 65.003):

- A child engages in truant conduct if they fail to attend school on 10 or more days or parts of days within a 6-month period in the same school year.
- If absent 3 days or parts of days in a 4-week period, the District will send a warning letter and initiate Truancy Prevention Measures.
 - Parents subject to prosecution under TX Ed Code
 - Student subject to truancy court under Family Code



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Part of Day (POD) Absence

- The Texas Education Code uses the language “**parts of days**” when referring to a POD absence which is defined as 50 minutes or more of lost instructional time during the school day.
- If a student consistently misses any part of the school day including, but not limited to, **ARRIVING LATE** or **LEAVING EARLY**, the school may take action to ensure that your child receives the maximum amount of instructional time everyday.



The 90% Rule

Attendance laws require districts to enforce the 90 percent rule which states that students in grades K-12 must attend class for 90 percent of the days a class is offered to receive a final grade or credit.

The 90 percent rule applies to ALL absences, including excused absences not exempted by the law.



The 90% Rule

A student who attends at least 75 percent, but fewer than 90 percent of the days a class is offered, may receive credit for the class if the student completes an instructional plan approved by the principal and the campus Attendance Review Committee.



Excused Absences By Texas Law

Although perfect attendance is the goal, it's not always possible. School districts are required to excuse a student's absence for reasons listed in state law.

The Texas Education Code describes these reasons, and other reasons, in greater detail.

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- **Observe a religious holy day**
- **Attend a required court appearance**
- **Serve as an election clerk**
- **Attend a healthcare appointment (bring your Dr. note)**



Excused Absences By Red Oak ISD

Red Oak ISD has its own criteria for determining what else is considered an excused absence.

Generally, the following absences MAY qualify as excused.

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- Personal illness
- Death of an immediate family member
- Medical treatment (for the student or student's child)
- Immediate family member emergency



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Absences NOT excused

Examples of unexcused absences include, but are not limited to:

- Car trouble
- Over sleeping
- Vacation
- Skipping class
- Personal business
- Appointment for parent or sibling
- Work
- Non-school activity



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What do you do when your child is absent?

- Parents are required to submit absence notes to the campus, including required documentation, within 3 days of your child's return to school.
 - Enter the absence in Skyward.
 - Call the campus to report your child's absence.
 - You can email Dr. notes to campus attendance clerk.
 - Unless the absence is allowed by law, the District will not excuse the absence.



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Skyward How To:

- Whether on the App or Desktop Computer for your student, select ATTENDANCE from the drop down or sidebar menu.
- Click 'Absence Request' and follow the prompts to select date, time, and absence reason. You can edit or delete pending requests.
- Once submitted, both you (Family account email) and the Attendance Office will receive an email.



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What do you do when your child is absent?

- If a child is absent for 5 or more consecutive days because of personal illness, the parent must present a statement from the doctor or clinic verifying the illness or condition which caused the extended absence.
- Without this documentation, the extended absence may be considered unexcused and, if so, is in violation of compulsory attendance laws.



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Excessive absences for illness

- For excessive absences for illness, the campus Attendance Review Committee may require a statement from the doctor or clinic verifying the illness or condition.
- Information will be used to determine if the absences will be excused or unexcused.



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What can the Parent do?

1. **Prioritize your child attending school every day.**
2. **Schedule appointments before- or after-school, or on non-school days (use the calendar to plan ahead!)**
3. **Pay attention to calls/email regarding absences and review absences in Skyward. Contact the school if you believe there is an error.**
4. **Turn in a note every time your child is absent. Dr. offices will provide you with a note for appointments.**



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Truancy Class QUIZ

- Click on the link below to complete the quiz required to receive credit for this truancy class.
- You must receive a score of 80 or higher to pass this quiz. You may take the quiz as often as needed to obtain this score. Please print a copy of the quiz results for your records.

[CLICK HERE](#)

