

San Antonio Independent School District
BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Perform Community Service
- Lose their driver's license
- Receive mandated order to complete GED
- Receive mandated order to a juvenile justice center

What can you as a parent do to promote good school attendance?

- Make school attendance a high priority in your home
- Make sure your child goes to bed at a reasonable time each night
- Communicate with the school on a regular basis and keep documentation
- Use iData Portal to access your child's grades and attendance or go to the school and request grades if you have not received them from child
- Have open lines of communication with your child.
- Show an interest in your child's day.

What is a drop out?

- A student who is withdrawn from school and does not enroll in another school or educational setting
- A runaway
- A student who is not enrolled in any educational setting

Can I be taken to court if my child is a drop out?

Yes. All SAISD withdrawals are investigated.

Who do I call if I know or see students out of class during the day?

- SAISD Truancy Hotline—210-554-2585

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For information please contact:

210.554.2585 or visit our website:

<http://www.saisd.net/dept/saa/>

Physical Address: Cooper Learning Center
1700 Tampico St.
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San Antonio Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

San Antonio Independent School District

A Parent Guide To Understanding Attendance





Frequently Asked Questions on Attendance, Truancy and Dropping Out

What are Student Engagement Facilitators?

Student Engagement Facilitators coordinate with parents, students, school and the community to ensure students attend school every day so they may become successful high school and college graduates.

What is truancy?

- Failing to attend class
- Skipping a class

What is the attendance law for Texas?

The state of Texas requires students, to attend school the entire day until their 18th birthday. Students who turn 18 during the school year and students 18 or older who voluntarily enroll in school must attend school the entire school year. Failure to attend school without excuse may result in the following:

- Required administrative/parent conference
- Home visit by the Student Engagement Facilitator
- Warning Notice for student's failure to attend
- Court Case being filed for truancy

What are acceptable excuses for being absent from school?

- Student illness
- Death in the immediate family

- Religious holiday
- Court appointment
- Doctor appointment
- Parent notes may be used to excuse 8 absences. Additional absences will only be excused by a doctor's note or other acceptable documentation approved by the principal.

(Excuses must be received by the school within 48 hours after the student's return)

What is not an acceptable excuse for being absent from school?

- Student stays home to take care of sibling or parent
- Student travels out of town to visit relatives or take vacation
- Excessive parent/guardian notes (contact your school for more detail)
- Non enrollment days (days the student is not in school due to changing schools)
- You must conference with the Principal if there are special circumstances requiring one of the above.

My child needs to leave school early. Will this be excused?

Leaving school early will be excused if it is for one of the acceptable reasons. Even though you are signing your student out of school at the attendance office, you must provide a written excuse or doctor's note for the absence to be excused.

How can I check on my student's absences?

- 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 the school may call you to report absences. Update the school on all new phone numbers and addresses
- iData Portal—online parent portal system which provides academic and attendance information about your child. (Please request registration information from the school)

What are other consequences for your child not attending school?

Students who miss school are far more likely to:

- Display signs of poor self-esteem and depression
- Exhibit failing grades
- Become involved in drugs and alcohol
- Drop out of school
- Become teenage parents
- Experience jail time
- Be retained

What penalties are enforced in truancy courts?

If you are found guilty of "Parent Contributing to Non Attendance", you may be directed by the court to complete one or all of the following:

- Pay fines
 - Perform community service
 - Attend parenting and/or counseling classes
 - Accompany your child to class each day
- If your child is found guilty, he/she may face all of the above and may also: