

Guide to Prevent Chronic Absenteeism & Truancy



Did you know?

Student attendance is categorized in two ways at KCS. Both categories are very important to know and understand. One category is chronically absent students. If a student is absent – regardless of the reason or even if an excuse is submitted – the total number of days counts towards being chronically absent. The other category is truant students. When a student is absent and submits an appropriate written excuse, the absence will not count towards the student being considered truant.

Please know you as a parent should always send an excuse with your student when they return from being absent. Parents may write excuses for up to ten (10) absences and after the tenth (10th) absence a doctor's excuse will be needed. These excuses will eliminate your student being considered truant; however, the excuses will not help eliminate your student from being considered chronically absent.

Students who are on time and in school have a much better chance to learn the grade level standards and make academic progress.

What is chronic absenteeism?

Chronic absenteeism - missing 10% (18 total absences) of the school year. This includes excused absences. Being chronically absent can make it harder for your child to learn to read, understand important concepts/skills, and graduate on time.

Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.

It is important to note if a student routinely misses one or two days every few weeks their total number of absences could surpass 18 very quickly. Attending school on time daily, not only helps students learn it also establishes a necessary real-world job skill.

What is truancy?

Truancy can result in legal charges against the guardian or juvenile.

A student with 10+ unexcused absences is considered truant. Therefore, please always send an excuse to the school when a student returns from being absent.

We do not want truancy charges to be filed against any guardian or juvenile. The very best way to prevent this is to attend school daily. Again, daily, on-time attendance will only help your student achieve academic success.

Truancy Diversion & Intervention

KCS wants to help all families avoid truancy. These are the steps KCS will take to assist:

- 1) Parent/Guardian contacted by school personnel at 3 unexcused absences.
- 2) Written notice at 5+ unexcused absences.
- 3) Conference with principal and school-based team for 10+ unexcused absences.
- 4) Home visits and referrals to community services and supports as needed.
- 5) Referral to the school's assistant attendance director. A student with 10+ unexcused absences is considered truant. Truancy could result in legal charges against the guardian or the juvenile.

WE UNDERSTAND

Occasionally, your child may not be sick enough to visit a doctor. Did you know, parents/guardians can write up to 10 parent notes per year to excuse absences? Excuses must be returned to school within 3 days.

What can you do at home?

- Avoid scheduling dental and medical appointments during the school day. If unavoidable, return your child to school following the appt.
- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day.
- Help your student maintain daily routines, such as eating a healthy breakfast, completing homework, and getting plenty of sleep.
- Set alarms to wake up on time. Lay clothes out the night before/have backpack ready.
- Use our Attendance Tracker to keep track of absences.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make them feel comfortable.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up.
- Encourage meaningful afterschool activities.

We're here to help!

Daily on-time school attendance is important. We, meaning KCS and you as the parent and guardian, all share the common goal of wanting every child to do well at school – academically, socially, and emotionally. We can achieve this goal by starting with establishing the importance of daily attendance. If you have concerns, questions, or would like assistance please contact your school principal, counselor or:

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