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Topics in this section of the Code contain important information on academic activities, and school operations and requirements. Take a moment with students to become familiar with the various issues addressed in this section. It is conveniently organized in alphabetical order to serve as a reference when you or your student has a question about a specific scheduled issue. Should you be unable to find the information on a particular topic, please contact Scott Castleberry, Executive Director of Student Services or Laura Sunosky Director of Student Services at 281-577-8600.

ABSENCES/ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is essential for a student to make the most of his or her education to benefit from teacher-led and school activities, to build each day's learning on the previous day and to grow as an individual. Absence from class may result in serious disruption of a student's mastery of the instructional materials; therefore, the student and parents should make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences. Two state laws—one dealing with compulsory attendance, the other with attendance for course credit—are of special interest to students and parents. They are discussed below.

Compulsory Attendance

Students with Disabilities

If a student with a disability is experiencing attendance issues, the district's Student Services Committee will be notified and the committee will determine the appropriate course of action.

A student who voluntarily attends school after his or her 19th birthday is required to attend each school day until the end of the school year. If a student 18 or older has more than five unexcused absences in a semester, the district may consider the student a trespasser and may be considered trespassing. [See policy FEA.]

Between Ages 6 and 9

State law requires that a student between the ages of six and nine attend school, as well as any applicable accelerated instruction program, extended year program, or tutorial session, unless the student is otherwise excused from attendance or legally exempt.

State law requires attendance in an accelerated reading instruction program when kindergarten, first grade, or second grade students are assigned to such a program. Parents will be notified in writing if their student is assigned to an accelerated reading instruction program as a diagnostic reading instrument.

A student will be required to attend any assigned accelerated instruction program, which may occur before or after school or during the summer, if the student does not meet the passing standards on the state assessment at their grade level and/or applicable subject area.

Prekindergarten and Kindergarten

Students enrolled in prekindergarten or kindergarten are required to attend school and are subject to the compulsory attendance requirements as long as they are enrolled.

Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance

State law allows exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements for several types of absences. These include the following:

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religious denomination as a holy day that is required to be observed by all members of that
denomination. Church retreats, mission trips and individual religious rites (baptisms, christenings, bar
mitzvahs, etc.) are not considered holy days.

- x Required court appearances including one day travel to and one day travel from;
A court appearance is considered to be required if the law or the court mandates an appearance by the
student in a criminal, civil or traffic matter. Important: Absences to meet with probation officers and
other absences related to court-ordered activities outside the courtroom do not qualify as required court
appearances
- x Participation in a mentorship to complete requirements for the Distinguished Achievement Program;
- x School sponsored activity with a professional NCISD staff member;
- x Sounding Taps at a military honors funeral (through 12th grade only);
- x College visits (through 12th grade only, maximum 2 days per year);
- x Activities related to the United States Bicentennial;
- x 7 D N L Q J S D U W L Q W K H States x a G r a d u a t i o n V a t R z e m b r y I n W H i n g one travel day to and one
travel day from;
- x Service as an election clerk (maximum 2 days per year);
- x Visitation with an active duty parent/guardian who has been continuously deployed for at least four months and
is on leave outside of where they regularly reside (maximum 4 days per school year); and
- x Is in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services and misses school to participate
in an activity required under a court-ordered service plan; or any other court-ordered activity provided it is not
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- x Documented health-care appointments for the student or a child of the student, including absences for
recognized services for students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders, if the student comes to school or
returns to school on the same day as the appointment. A note from the health-care provider must be submitted
upon the student's arrival or return to campus; and
- x If a student 17 years of age or older is pursuing enlistment in a branch of the U.S. armed services or Texas
National Guard, provided the absence does not exceed four days during the period the student is enrolled in
high school and the student provides verification to the district of these activities.

Failure to Comply with Compulsory Attendance

School employees must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent
without permission from school; from any classroom required special programs, such as additional special
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the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action

Age 19 and older

After a student age 19 or older incurs a third unexcused absence, the district will send the student a letter as required
by law explain 0 0 1 124.22 187.34 Tm Tm [(a)] TJ ET BT 1 .34 Tm Tm [(a)] TJ ET BT 1 .34 Tm 1e174.74 Tm



Field Trip Absences

Students participating in a field trip during school hours will not be counted as absent. Work missed for such activities is eligible for make-up, as are days missed for UIL competitions. Prior approval must be given for all students participating in a field trip. Students who are failing any class or who have poor or unsatisfactory conduct/attendance may not participate in a field trip or UIL activity. It will be the responsibility of the teacher or coach sponsoring the field trip or UIL activity to check all forms and student eligibility prior to the trip. Students who are failing a class do not have permission to miss that class for a field trip or UIL activity during school hours.

Release of Students from School

Every attempt should be made to schedule appointments outside of the school day. There may be times, however, when an appointment

If a student's absence/s/he has one (1) day for each day absent to turn in the work.

In the case of long-term assignment: Teachers may require long-term assignments i.e. research papers, projects, etc. (that were assigned prior to a V W X absence) to be turned in on the day the student returns to school.

Request for Assig