



SUGGESTIONS TO PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH ATTENDANCE PROBLEMS

All school patterns develop during the primary grades--attendance, study habits, behavior, and attitudes; therefore, it is very important for parents to provide positive guidance in these four areas.

A child with good attendance is successful in many different ways. They feel better about themselves, make better grades, learn to interact with other children and adults, and become more independent and able to solve problems on their own. Success becomes a habit.

On the other hand, the child with poor attendance tends to experience problems in school. They may not like themselves and may not be able to get along with their classmates. They will not be able to keep up with their schoolwork that will lead to stress, poor grades and possible failure. They may have trouble following rules at school and at home. They do not develop a sense of responsibility for their own actions. The parent and the school share a common goal—for your child to be successful in school and in life.

IT IS THE PARENTS' LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THEIR CHILD ATTENDS SCHOOL REGULARLY AND IS ON TIME.

The State Compulsory School Attendance Law requires that:

- Children between the ages of six (6) and eighteen (18) must attend school;
- Children enrolled in pre-kindergarten or kindergarten are required to follow the same state attendance law;
- Children enrolled in school must attend all day, every day, for the entire school year.

If you receive an Attendance Warning Notice, please remember that only medical notes or the approval by an administrator will excuse an absence.

The following suggestions are being provided to you by the UISD Attendance Officers to assist in resolving your child's attendance problem.

I. ATTENDING SCHOOL THE ENTIRE DAY

Parents should value the entire school day as a learning process. Please schedule appointments after school or on weekends. If you must keep an appointment during the school day, return the child to school unless the doctor recommends immediate home rest. Be sure to provide a doctor's note to the school when your child returns.

II. TARDINESS/EARLY REMOVAL

- Being on time and attending school all day are important habits to develop.
- Arriving late or leaving early disrupts the learning process and reduces valuable learning time for everyone.
- In Addition, being late to school or leaving early from school is counted as a partial-day absence, which is a violation of the Compulsory Attendance Law.



III. ILLNESSES

1. If your child complains of being ill, screen him/her for symptoms. Look for obvious signs of illness such as fever, vomiting, or diarrhea. Parents can treat minor complaints with over-the-counter medication. Children should be encouraged to attend school unless they show visible signs of illness. Healthy children should not stay home just because another family member is ill. Parents should be watchful for the development of a regular absence pattern. It is a good idea to mark a calendar on the days your child is absent.
2. If your child's symptoms continue for more than two days, contact a medical professional. For further guidance, you may call the school nurse or your family doctor.

V. MINOR SYMPTOMS

When your child has minor symptoms or complains of being ill without apparent symptoms, make staying at home boring, not fun. Be tough and set rules such as no TV, no friends over after school, and no playing. Restrict the child to his bedroom with quiet activities such as reading or studying.

VI. IMPORTANT PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. When your child is absent, call the school attendance office. This should be followed up with a written excuse when your child returns to school. The excuse should have the following:
 - The date of the note
 - The name of the child
 - The date of the absence or tardy
 - The specific reason for the absence or tardy
 - The parent's signature
2. Be prepared for the opening of school so that your child is ready to start on the first day. Plan ahead to purchase necessary school supplies, clothing, and other items. Check with your child's school to find out what items you need to supply for school.
3. Your child's immunizations should be kept current for his/her own well-being and the well-being of others. When you are notified that an immunization is needed, promptly make arrangements with your doctor or one of the clinics listed. Provide the school with the receipt showing proof of the immunization. If you have any further questions, please contact the school nurse. Parents should be aware that state law requires immunizations; failure to immunize your child promptly could result in court action due to unexcused absences.
4. Parents need to keep informed of the school calendar, programs, and PTA meetings. You are encouraged to visit your child's school regularly and meet with your child's teacher as requested.
5. Parents should take the responsibility of setting times for play, homework, household chores, TV viewing, and bedtime. These times should be the same every day with few exceptions. Children should be praised or rewarded for cooperative behavior.
6. Avoid a repetitive absence pattern, such as Friday-Monday, day before or after school holiday, or every Wednesday. Plan family outings and vacations during weekends or school holidays.
7. Children should not be kept home to babysit other children in the family. It is the parents' responsibility to make arrangements for childcare services.
8. Encourage your child to be the best he/she can be.