

Compulsory School Attendance Law Notice to Parents

Date: _____

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires that all children from the age of 6 to 18 regularly attend school for 180 days per year. You must notify the school when your child is absent. A student's absence from school may be considered either excused or unexcused depending on the reason for the absence and the information you provide to the school in a timely manner when your child is absent.

Please notify your child's school when your child is absent by telephoning _____

or e-mailing _____ and reporting the reason for their absence.

Excused Absences

Pennsylvania law broadly defines absences as excused when a student is prevented from attendance for mental, physical, or other urgent reasons. An absence is lawful when a student is dismissed during school hours by a certified school nurse, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse or a school administrator or designee or if the student is absent to obtain professional health care or therapy care service rendered by a licensed practitioner in the healing arts. Additionally, the district considers illness, family emergency, death of a family member, medical or dental appointments, authorized school activities, and educational travel with prior approval as lawful absences.

Unexcused Absences

An "unexcused" absence is any absence for a day or any significant part of a day (one class period or more than one hour) for reasons other than those listed above and any absence without parent knowledge and prior approval from school officials. Students who are absent from a school for 10 consecutive school days will be dropped from the district enrollment unless you make prior arrangements with the district, or you provide the district with evidence that the absence is legal, and the district accepts the explanation.

A child is considered truant after incurring three or more unexcused absences from school. A child is considered habitually truant after incurring six or more unexcused absences from school. The school will notify you in writing after 3 unexcused absences within 10 school days of the child's third unexcused absence. This notice will contain a description of the consequences that will follow if the child becomes habitually truant and may include the offer of a School Attendance Improvement Conference (SAIC). If the child continues to incur additional unexcused absences after the school has issued the notice, the school, if not already offered, will offer the student and parent a SAIC.

Students who continue to incur unexcused absences from school may be referred to the magisterial district judge for a truancy citation, which could result in fines or other consequences. Please see the [Compulsory School Attendance, Unlawful Absences, and School Attendance Improvement Conferences](#) Basic Education Circular for more information.

Regardless of the type of absence, students are required to complete all assignments missed during absences in order to receive the appropriate credits.

Thank you for your assistance in reporting your child's absences from school. Please contact me if you have any questions about this letter.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____