



Building strong bridges between dyslexia and academic success.

ATTENDANCE and TRUANCY

Absences from School

A student must provide (within 3 days of absence, or if the student has several continuous absences, within 3 days after the student's return to school) a written excuse from a parent, guardian or health practitioner for all absences other than those approved by the principal for a school-sponsored activity.

A valid excuse must:

- include the date;
- list the student's full name;
- contain the date(s) of the absence(s);
- list the reason for the absence(s);
- list a telephone number of the parent (if needed for verification); **and**
- include the signature of the parent/guardian or a licensed/certified health practitioner.

If a death in the family occurs after the 10th day, an obituary notice must be provided to the school for that day(s) to be excused.

With approval from the principal, students may be absent for a portion of the school day or the entire day for school-sponsored activities, such as field trips, academic competitions, athletic events, or other extracurricular activities. The school will not count the student absent from class/school in such cases.

State attendance regulations require school personnel to conduct a Student Attendance Intervention Conference for every student who accumulates 3 consecutive unexcused absences or a total of 5 unexcused absences. At the conference, the parent or guardian and school personnel will address ways to correct and/or improve the issues.

Once a student has accumulated 10 absences -- regardless of the reason -- an excuse is required from a licensed/certified health practitioner for any further absence. That is, no parent-written notes will be accepted to excuse an absence after the student has accrued the 10th absence.

Truancy

A student who is absent from school or any class without permission may be subject to disciplinary action (e.g. detention, suspension, expulsion, and/or ineligibility for participation in athletics or other

school activities). Students under the age of 17 with excessive absences will be reported to the district's Director of Student Services. An absence is considered unlawful if the student is absent without parental knowledge or without an acceptable reason – with or without parental knowledge.

Truancy can have a devastating impact on a young person's education. The South Carolina Compulsory School Attendance Law requires that children between the ages of five (5) and seventeen (17) years attend school regularly. The law mandates that parents assure the presence of their children at school. Section 59-65-20 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976 states: "Any parent or guardian who neglects to enroll his child or ward or refuses to make such child or ward attend school shall, upon conviction, be fined not more than \$50 or be imprisoned not more than 30 days; each day's absence shall constitute a separate offense."

What the law means is that for any unlawful absence that a child accrues, the parent or guardian could be fined \$50 or serve 30 days in jail for each unexcused day. Parents are encouraged to work with school staff members to assure that their children attend school. Parental support will make a world of difference in a child's future. If parents make education a priority, so will their children.