



Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to a new school year. The Arlington Independent School District hopes that everyone had an enjoyable and safe summer. There are some important issues regarding Truancy that the AISD wants you to be aware of.

What is Truancy?

- Truancy is the absence of a student without a valid excuse from school or class during a regular school day.
- The Texas Education Code, Sections 25.085 (a) and (b), state that a child who is at least six years of age, or who is younger than six years of age and has previously been enrolled in first grade, and has not reached the child's 18th birthday shall attend school each school day for the entire period the program of instruction is provided.
- If the student fails to attend school without a valid excuse for 10 days or parts of days within a six month period or for 3 days or parts of days within a four-week period, the parent and student are subject to prosecution.

How will the Arlington Independent School District respond to truancy issues?

- Students will be referred to their respective District Attendance Officer who will contact the student and conference with them and/or their parents. A warning letter regarding the student's attendance and stating the consequences of violating truancy laws shall be mailed to the student's residence.
- Cases will be filed in court, and consequences can result in fines ranging from \$120 to \$500 **for each day** the student remains truant from school. Other consequences are loss of VOE (TEA) forms necessary for driver's education, suspension of driver's license or permit, referral to the juvenile probation department, and/or a warrant for the arrest of the parent or student may be issued.
- The Compulsory School Attendance Policy states that 90% attendance in each class or subject offered is mandatory for all students. If a student fails to attend 90% of the days of instruction, credit may be lost, and promotion to the next grade may be in jeopardy.
- It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to call the school **by 10 a.m. each day** a student is absent to explain the absence of the student. Absences not cleared will remain unexcused.

The AISD wants your student to be successful in school. As a parent, you can help by making sure that your student is regularly attending school. Maintain contact with the student's attendance clerk. You may also contact your student's counselor or attendance office for information on **INTOUCH**, a website for parents and guardians to access their student's information from home.

Best wishes for a successful school year,

AISD District Attendance Office