

2025-2026

### **Attendance Procedure Manual**



PEIMS Data Quality, Compliance and Accountability Department

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## PEIMS Data Quality Compliance & Accountability

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### Texas Education Agency Resources

2025-2026 Student Attendance Accounting Handbook:

https://tea.texas.gov/finance-and-grants/financial-compliance/student-attendance-accounting-handbook

2025-2026 Texas Education Data Standards via TWEDS:

https://tealprod.tea.state.tx.us/TWEDS/103/0/0/Introduction/List/878

# Trainings/Meetings

Attendance is required at all trainings/meetings. In the event you are unable to attend a scheduled training/meeting, you will need to email PEIMS Data Quality via department email <a href="mailto:peimsdataquality@sfdr-cisd.org">peimsdataquality@sfdr-cisd.org</a> prior to the scheduled meeting time.

# Data Backup

All data is backed up nightly and stored by Skyward.

### **PEIMS Overview**

#### What is PEIMS?

The Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) encompasses all data requested and received by TEA about public education, including student demographic and academic performance, personnel, financial, and organizational information.<sup>1</sup>

#### **PEIMS Data Standards**

The Data Standards provide instructions on the submission of PEIMS data by school districts to the Texas Education Agency.<sup>2</sup>

- https://tea.texas.gov/reports-and-data/data-submission/peims
- 2 <a href="https://tea.texas.gov/reports-and-data/data-submission/peims/peims-data-standards">https://tea.texas.gov/reports-and-data/data-submission/peims/peims-data-standards</a>

#### Student Attendance Accounting Handbook (SAAH)

No school district official (or any other person in your school district) has the authority, either implied or actual, to change or alter any rules, regulations, or reporting requirements specified in this handbook.<sup>3</sup>

The Student Attendance Accounting Handbook (SAAH):

- describes the Foundation School Program eligibility requirements of all students,
- prescribes the minimum standards for all attendance accounting systems,
- lists the documentation requirements for attendance audit purposes and
- details the responsibilities of all district personnel involved in student attendance accounting.<sup>4</sup>

#### Senate Bill 124

Senate Bill 124 amends the Penal Code to include data required to be reported for a school district or open-enrollment charter school to the Texas Education Agency through the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) among the governmental records the tampering with which constitutes a third degree felony and to enhance the penalty for the offense of official oppression by a public servant from a Class A misdemeanor to a third degree felony if the public servant acted with the intent to impair the accuracy of such data.

#### **General Audit Requirements**

The District must make available and provide to the Financial Compliance Division of TEA copies of all required attendance records **within 20 working days** of the agency's written request. Failure to provide all required attendance records (specific program[s], grant[s], or both) will result in TEA retaining 100 percent of your district's FSP allotment for the undocumented attendance for the school year(s) for which records have been requested.<sup>5</sup>

## Student Attendance Accounting

#### **Understanding Student Attendance Accounting**

This manual will cover an array of information concerning the processing of student attendance accounting. Topics will include official attendance time, attendance reconciliation, six weeks' attendance verifications, audit documentation and checklists.

#### **About This Manual**

Material contained in this manual is based on the Student Attendance Accounting Handbook, the PEIMS Data Standards, best practices and district policy.

<sup>2025-2026</sup> StudentAttendanceAccountingHandbook, Section 1 Overview

<sup>2025-2026</sup> StudentAttendanceAccountingHandbook, Foreword

<sup>2025-2026</sup> StudentAttendanceAccountingHandbook, Section2.1

As required by the Texas Education Agency, this procedures manual must include the following information:

- 1. How and when teachers are to take official attendance
- 2. How attendance is entered into the attendance accounting system
- 3. Which position or positions are responsible for the coding of special programs (such as career and technical education, special education, pregnancy-related services [PRS], etc.)
- 4. How changes to special programs are to be documented
- 5. How student membership is to be reconciled between the teacher rosters and the attendance accounting database
- 6. How your district will maintain attendance accounting records (including computerized records, period absence slips, and official calendar) after the completion of the school year
- 7. What backup systems are in place to protect the attendance accounting records
- 8. Which position is responsible for the maintenance and security of the attendance accounting records<sup>6</sup>

### How and When Teachers Take Official Attendance

#### How Attendance is Recorded

Attendance will be recorded electronically through the district student information system. Skyward is the current student information system.

#### Recording Attendance During the Event of a Technical Outage

In the event that teachers are unable to take attendance due to a technical outage, the attendance must be taken on a paper roster. The paper class roster must be signed, dated and submitted to the attendance clerk for manual entry. Documentation supporting the outage must be filed with the Daily Summary Reports.

#### Time of Day for Attendance Taking

Each campus must determine attendance for all grades by the absences recorded at the one particular point in time the campus has chosen for roll to be taken (a snapshot, for example, 9:45 a.m.). The selected time may vary from campus to campus within your district. Once a time has been selected, a campus may not change it during the schoolyear.<sup>7</sup>

An attendance accounting system that allows teachers to enter attendance data directly into the automated system must provide security to the data that are entered. Systems must include the following safeguards and security features (this is not necessarily an exhaustive list of required features):

- 1. Requirement that teachers log on to the system using distinct secret passwords
- 2. Timing out (automatic shutoff) if the program has not had an activity in an appropriately short period of time (for example, 10 minutes)

<sup>2025-2026</sup> StudentAttendanceAccountingHandbook, Section 2.2.5

<sup>2025-2026</sup> StudentAttendanceAccountingHandbook, Section 3.6.2

- 3. Ability to report the date, time and identity of the teacher entering the absence data, upon request
- 4. Ability to report the date, time and identity of the individual making changes to the attendance report, upon request
- 5. Provision of a positive confirmation for 100 percent of attendance (teacher submits "all present" rather than showing no one absent)<sup>8</sup>

#### Campus Official Attendance Recording Times

**Prekindergarten Campus:** Attendance will be taken each day in the homeroom class. Official snapshot attendance will be recorded each day at the following times for the listed programs:

PK – Full Day	10:30 AM
ECSE – Morning Session	10:30 AM
ECSE – Afternoon Session	1:00 PM

**Elementary Campuses**: Attendance will be taken each day in the homeroom class. Official snapshot attendance will be recorded each day.

All Elementary Campuses 10:30 AM

**Secondary campuses**: Attendance will be taken every period. Official (snapshot) attendance will be recorded each day during the times listed below:

Del Rio High School/Freshman Campus/Early College HS	10:00 AM
Blended Academy	10:00 AM
Del Rio Middle School	10:40 AM
Garfield Middle School	10:40 AM
San Felipe Memorial Middle School	10:40 AM
SGLC	10:00 AM

# How Attendance is entered into Skyward

Students who are on campus and in their classrooms at the time attendance is taken must have their official attendance taken and completed by the classroom teacher. Attendance must not be taken by students or classroom aides and clerks that do not meet the requirements for paraprofessionals. (For the requirements for paraprofessionals, see the TEA "Becoming an Educational Aide in Texas" web page located at

https://tea.texas.gov/Texas Educators/Certification/Initial Certification/Becoming an Educational Aide in Texas/

Using a student sign-in sheet to record attendance is not an acceptable method of taking roll and will result in the attendance being disallowed.<sup>9</sup>

#### **Pre-entered Absences**

The campus attendance secretary may pre-enter student attendance for students who are out of the classroom for field trips, UIL sponsored activities, or other approved activities. The secretary may also pre-enter absences for students who are out of the classroom due to disciplinary placement (ISS, OSS, and D-Hall). Attendance that was pre-coded for a future date may be deleted/removed. Attendance previously posted may not be deleted/removed.

<sup>2025-2026</sup> StudentAttendanceAccountingHandbook, Section 2.2.3

<sup>9</sup> 2025-2026 StudentAttendanceAccountingHandbook, Section 3.6

Legible student rosters must be provided to the office by the trip sponsor and/or discipline administrator in a timely manner. ALL PRE-ENTERED ATTENDANCE MUST BE RECONCILED UPON CONCLUSION OF THE SPECIFIED ACTIVITY (see acceptable documentation). All documentation before and after the approved activity must be kept on file for audit purposes.

#### Campus Teacher Attendance

Campus teachers will submit attendance electronically through Skyward at the official attendance time.

#### Substitute Teacher Attendance

Substitute teachers will take attendance on a Skyward Generated Attendance Worksheet at the official attendance time. The Attendance Worksheet will be signed and dated by the substitute teacher and submitted to the attendance clerk to be manually entered into Skyward. The paper roster will be scanned and stored electronically in the designated campus-level Google Drive folder for auditing purposes with the daily attendance documentation. Substitutes must verify attendance by marking A = "Absent" or P = "Present." Students not on roster, add to bottom of attendance worksheet. Make sure to include last name, first name, and ID on roster.

Long-term substitutes will be granted access to record attendance upon receipt of the Staffing Budget Worksheet designating him/her as a long-term substitute.

#### Manual Entries or Corrections to Student Attendance Data

District staff members must always use ink to make manual entries or corrections in the attendance records, and on daily absence slips, on six-week absence reports, and daily summary sheets. Staff members must never record manual entries in pencil, use liquid correction fluid, or use a signature stamp. If errors are made on any official attendance document, the staff member making the correction must strike through the error, enter corrections nearby and initial.<sup>10</sup>

#### **Unrecorded Class Attendance**

The Unrecorded Class Attendance report will automatically generate five minutes after the official attendance time each day. The report will be emailed via Skyward Relay to all campus administrators for appropriate action.

#### Homebound Attendance

When the homebound committee has approved for a student to receive homebound services, the homebound instructor will submit an attendance log to the campus attendance secretary on a weekly basis. Homebound attendance coding will be pre-entered on a monthly basis (Q-awaiting services). Upon receipt of the homebound log from the teacher, the attendance secretary will manually enter the homebound attendance code (X) based on eligible days. Once the attendance is entered, keep a copy of the log in chronological order in the student's homebound folder.

Email the homebound teacher, campus administrator, appropriate program director/coordinator and PEIMS Data Quality if the homebound log is not received by the end of the first school day following the week of instruction.

<sup>2025-2026</sup> Student AttendanceAccountingHandbook, Section 3.6.1

#### Homebound Teacher Instruction Log (GEH, SPED, CEHI)

The minimum documentation required in homebound logs (the attendance record maintained by a homebound teacher) includes:

- The name of the homebound teacher,
- The student's name and Texas Unique ID,
- The date that the homebound teacher visited the homebound student, and
- The specific time period that the student was served (for example, 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.)<sup>11</sup>

Amount of Time Served per Week	Eligible Days Present Earned per Week	Attendance Entry in Skyward
1 hour	1 day present	$egin{aligned} \mathbf{Monday} &= \mathbf{X} \\ \mathbf{Tuesday} &= \mathbf{A} \\ \mathbf{Wednesday} &= \mathbf{A} \\ \mathbf{Thursday} &= \mathbf{A} \end{aligned}$
2 hours	2 days present	Friday = A  Monday = X  Tuesday = X  Wednesday = A
		Thursday = A $Friday = A$ $Monday = X$ $Tuesday = X$ $Wednesday = X$
3 hours	3 days present	Thursday = A Friday = A Monday = X
4 hours	4 days present (if the week is a 4-day week) 5 days present (if the week is a 5-day week)	Tuesday = X $Wednesday = X$ $Thursday = X$ $Friday = X$
More than 4 hours	4 days present (if the week is a 4-day week) 5 days present (if the week is a 5-day week) <sup>12</sup>	Monday = X Tuesday = X Wednesday = X Thursday = X Friday = X

#### Homebound Test Administration (GEH, SPED, CEHI)

A student being administered standardized, six-weeks, semester, and final exams and required state assessments is limited to earning one day present for a minimum of one hour or more of testing in one calendar day. When it takes the student more than one hour to complete the exam, the additional contact hours must not be credited as attendance. If the routine, standardized, six-weeks, semester, or final exam administration or required state assessment testing requires less than one hour, then the homebound instructor must complete the hour with homebound instruction for the student to earn the one day present. For example, say a student is administered a final exam, and it takes her 30 minutes to complete the exam. The student must receive an additional 30 minutes of homebound instruction to earn one day present. A student receiving services who returns to his or her campus to take required state assessments must have a medical release from a licensed physician<sup>13</sup> to do so. The time spent on campus taking required state assessments must not count as any part of the number of hours of service for eligible days present.

 $<sup>^{11}\ \ 2025\</sup>text{-}2026\, Student Attendance Accounting Handbook, Section 3.7.2.1\text{-}4$ 

 $<sup>^{12}\ \ 2025\</sup>text{-}2026\,StudentAttendanceAccountingHandbook, Section 3.6}$ 

 $<sup>^{13} \ \ \</sup>text{Access the Texas Medical Board's searchable database of licensed physicians at} \ \underline{\text{https://profile.tmb.state.tx.us/profile.tx.us/profile.tx.u$ 

#### Office Logs

Students who are on campus at the time attendance is taken but who are not in their assigned classroom are considered in attendance for FSP purposes provided they were with a campus official (nurse, counselor, principal, etc.). Class admit slips or other documentation supporting that a student was with a campus official must be retained for audit purposes.<sup>14</sup>

Students arriving to school late or leaving school early <u>must be checked in/out using the Attendance Office Visits Module.</u> Student generated sign in/sign out logs are not appropriate supporting documentation.

# Special Program Data Responsibilities

All special program directors will be provided a special program student list each six-week reporting period to review and verify. Special program directors are responsible for reviewing reports and coordinating with the appropriate campus personnel for data changes. Each special program director will sign, date and return the corrected special program student list to PEIMS Data Quality no later than end of the following week after the end of the six-week period. Please refer to the Six Week Attendance Periods chart for exact dates.

**Important**: Your district must not assign attendance personnel the responsibility of determining a student's coding information. Special program staff members, directors, or teachers should provide attendance personnel with names and coding information of students who are eligible and whose documentation is in order. Special program directors and staff members are responsible for reviewing special program data and totals for accuracy and completeness. They are also responsible for ensuring that attendance personnel are aware of any changes in a student's services and the effective dates of those changes. The attendance personnel are then responsible for entering the changes in the student attendance accounting system. At the end of each six-week reporting period, special program staff members should check the Student Detail Report for any coding errors.<sup>15</sup>

#### Bilingual/English as a Second Language (ESL)

The Bilingual Department is responsible for identifying and coding Bilingual/ESL program.

Director, Bilingual/ESL Educational Department – Shafer, Karen Phone: 830-778-4099

#### Career and Technical Education (CTE)

The CTE Director/Coordinator is responsible for the upkeep of contact hours on the master schedule.

CTE Assistant Principal – Jessica Guanajuato

Phone: 830-778-4368 Phone: 830-778-4367

Coordinator, Career & Technical Education – Cynthia Sahagun

#### Pregnancy Related Services (PRS)

The campus counselors and nurses are responsible for identifying and coding any pregnancy related data. Coding will be completed at the campus level under oversight of the assigned campus coordinator. Supporting documentation (CEHI and PEIMS Program Change Form) will be provided to the campus attendance secretary for auditing purposes. Questions regarding the program may be referred to:

Coordinator – TBD Phone: TBD

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> 2025-2026 StudentAttendanceAccountingHandbook, Section 3.6

 $<sup>^{15}</sup>$ 2025-2026 Student Attendance Accounting Handbook, Sections 3.1-12.1

#### **Special Education**

The Special Education PEIMS clerk is responsible for entering into Skyward the Special Education data that is provided by the diagnosticians. Supporting documentation of all changes must be maintained in the student Special Education folder. The Special Education staff is responsible for generating, verifying and correcting Special Education data each six-week period. The completed reports will be submitted to the Special Education Director to verify.

Phone: 830-778-4253

Director of Special Education – Luna, Monica

PK

Director of PK is responsible for verifying eligibility of students and maintaining appropriate PEIMS coding in the Student Information System (SIS).

Director, Head Start/Principal, Cardwell Elementary – Talamantez-Elizondo, Alana Phone: 830-778-4650

# Use of Attendance Codes and Documentation Requirements

- **A.** A student not actually on campus at the time attendance is taken may be considered in attendance for FSP purposes if the student:
  - 1. Is participating in an activity that is approved by SFDRCISD and is under the direction of a professional staff member, an adjunct staff member or a paraprofessional staff member. Students participating in any activity that is not approved by SFDRCISD or without certified district personnel supervision must be counted absent. For attendance to qualify for funding purposes, the staff member must be accompanying the students as an official of SFDRCISD for the specific purpose of supervising the students and must be approved by the school board to supervise the activity. Acceptable documentation: student rosters with student name, ID or TSDS # (no nicknames) signed by the professional staff member verifying the presence of the students at the approved activity. Documentation will be held at the campus level.

a. Attendance Code Z SCHOOL TRIP

b. Attendance Code H 4-H

2. Absent as the result of a serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment that makes the student's attendance infeasible. Documentation from a health care professional licensed, certified, or registered to practice in Texas must be provided that specifies the student's illness and the anticipated period of the student's absence relating to the illness or related treatment.

A student with a mental health or substance abuse condition who is being treated for a serious illness (TEC, §25.087(b)(3)) in an outpatient day treatment program or partial hospitalization program, under the care of a health care professional licensed, certified, or registered to practice in Texas, is excused for the authorized treatment period, and should not be withdrawn from school. The discharge summary from the outpatient day treatment or partial hospitalization program must include treatment admission and discharge dates to be provided to the school by the family upon return to school as documentation to excuse

absences for the duration of the authorized outpatient treatment plan or partial hospitalization. <u>Acceptable documentation</u> Written statement or medical note from a Texaslicensed health care professional and, for mental health or substance abuse treatment, a discharge summary from the outpatient day treatment or partial hospitalization program. Documentation must be retained at the campus level.

#### a. Attendance Code \* SERIOUS ILLNESS

3. Receiving general education homebound (GEH) services. <u>Acceptable documentation</u>: Student's eligibility for GEH services (SAAH Section 3.7), GEH committee decision, instructional plan, start and stop dates of homebound instruction, and the attendance record maintained by the homebound teacher (homebound log). Documentation will be held at the campus level.

#### a. Attendance Code X HOMEBOUND/CEHI

4. Observation of holy days, including days of travel to or from. Travel days for which the student is considered in attendance shall be limited to not more than one day for travel to and one day for travel from the site where the student will observe the holy days. To be considered a religious holy day, the day should be one generally recognized by the student's religious denomination as a holy day that is required to be observed by all members of that denomination. Church retreats, camps, and mission trips and individual religious rites (baptisms, christenings, bar mitzvahs, etc.) are not considered holy days. Acceptable documentation: A parent note is sufficient. LEAs may not require that the student provide documentation from a clergy member of religious leader. Documentation will be held at the campus level.

#### a. Attendance Code I HOLY DAYS

5. In grades 6 through 12 and misses school for the purpose of playing "Taps" at a military honors funeral held in Texas for a deceased veteran. <u>Acceptable documentation</u>: Letter signed by detail commander requesting student's services. Documentation will be held at the campus level. The student must be afforded a reasonable amount of time to make up schoolwork missed on these days. If the student satisfactorily completes the schoolwork, the day of absence is counted as a day of compulsory attendance. Documentation will be held at the campus level.

#### a. Attendance Code 1 PLAYING OF TAPS

6. A student may be considered in attendance if absent from school to attend a required court appearance, including travel for that purpose. Travel days for which the student is considered in attendance are limited to not more than one day for travel to and one day for travel from the site where the student is required to appear in court. 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. Acceptable documentation: Copy

of a pleading or other document filed with the court, a notice from the court clerk regarding a hearing or trial date, a jury summons, or a subpoena. Documentation will be held at the campus level.

However, exceptions apply for students who are in the conservatorship of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). A student in DFPS conservatorship may be considered in attendance if absent to participate in an activity ordered by a court under the Texas Family Code, Chapter 262 or Chapter 263, provided that scheduling the participation outside of school hours is not practicable (TEC, §25.087(b)(1)(F)) or to attend an activity under a service plan under the Texas Family Code, Chapter 263, Subchapter B. (TEC, §25.087(b)(1)(F)) The student may be considered in attendance for travel days for this purpose. Travel days for which the student is considered in attendance are limited to not more than one day for travel to and one day for travel from the site where the student is participating in the activity, appointment, or visitation.

#### a. Attendance Code J COURT

7. A student who is 17 years of age or older may be considered in attendance if temporarily absent for the purpose of pursuing enlistment in a branch of the United States uniformed services or the Texas Army National Guard. A district may not excuse the student for more than **four school days** for this purpose during the time the student is enrolled in high school. The district must adopt a local policy outlining when such absences will be excused and must establish a verification procedure to document the student's enlistment-related activities. Acceptable documentation: Official verification from the military branch. Documentation will be held at the campus level.

#### a. Attendance Code 8 ENLIST ACTIVITY

8. A student may be considered in attendance if temporarily absent due to a documented appointment for the student or the student's child with a health care professional who is licensed, certified, or registered by an appropriate agency of the State of Texas<sup>16</sup> to practice in the United States. This includes in-person visits as well as telemedicine (phone or video) consultations. Students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder may also qualify when attending appointments to receive generally recognized services related to their diagnosis. To be considered in attendance, the student must begin classes **or** return to class on the same day as the appointment. <u>Acceptable documentation:</u> A signed note from the U.S.-licensed health care professional. Documentation must be retained at the campus level.

a. Attendance Code O MEDICAL APPT.W/DOC (Student)
 b. Attendance Code K APPT. STU CHILD (Student's Child)

9. A student is in his or her junior or senior year of high school and misses school for the purpose of visiting an institution of higher education and/or a professional's workplace for career exploration purposes. Visits do not exceed two school days during a student's junior year and two days during a student's senior year. Travel days are not included. <u>Acceptable documentation</u>: Dated program, ticket, brochure or letter from institution or workplace. A signed parent/guardian note verifying a college or career visit.

#### a. Attendance Code 3 VISIT HIGHER ED / CAREER VISIT

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Access the Texas Medical Board's searchable database of licensed physicians at <a href="https://www.tmb.state.tx.us/page/look-up-a-license">https://www.tmb.state.tx.us/page/look-up-a-license</a>

10. Is absent from school for the purpose of serving as a student early voting clerk, election clerk or student election clerk. Not to exceed two school days in a school year. A student may be considered in attendance for travel days related to serving as an election clerk or student election clerk, limited to one day for travel to and one day for travel from the site where the student serves. Travel days for serving as a student early voting clerk do not qualify as excused attendance days. Additional travel days may be excused at the district's discretion but will count as absences for attendance purposes. Travel days do not count toward the two-day absence limit. To serve in these roles, a student must meet the following requirements: be at least 16 years old, be eligible under the Texas Election Code, §32.051(c), have the consent of the school principal, be a U.S. citizen, and have completed any required training for the election entity. Students serving as election clerks must meet all requirements outlined in the Texas Election Code, §32.051. Acceptable documentation: Signed documentation from the district/city/county/federal election clerk.

#### a. Attendance Code 5 ELECTION CLERK

11. Is absent from school for the purpose of appearing at a governmental office to complete paperwork required in connection with the student's application for US citizenship and/or taking part in the student's own US naturalization oath ceremony. Travel days for which the student is considered in attendance are limited to not more than one day for travel to and one day for travel from the site where the student is required to appear. Acceptable documentation: Copy of application/oath signed by appropriate government official.

#### a. Attendance Code 4 CITIZENSHIP

12. Is absent to visit with a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian who is an active-duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or is immediately returned from continuous deployment of at least four months outside the locality where the parent, stepparent, or guardian regularly resides. The district is required to excuse up to 5 days for this purpose in a school year. An excused absence for this purpose must be taken no earlier than 60 days before the date of deployment or no later than 30 days after the date of return from deployment. Acceptable documentation: Copy of official orders and/or signed letter from appropriate commanding officer.

#### a. Attendance Code 7 MILITARY

13. Student placed in Juvenile Detention. <u>Acceptable Documentation:</u> Documentation of placement and Attendance/ Instructional Services Log.

#### a. Attendance Code R JUVENILE DETENTION

14. Misses school for the purpose of visiting a driver's license office to obtain a driver's license or learner permit. The student must be enrolled in high school and 15 years of age or older. May not excuse the student for more than one day of school during the period the student is enrolled in high school for each purpose (obtaining a driver's license and obtaining a learner license). District must verify the student's visit to the driver's license office. <a href="Acceptable Documentation">Acceptable Documentation</a>: Time-stamped documentation such as a copy of temporary drivers' license or learner's permit. Parent Note along with supporting documentation.

#### a. Attendance Code ~ DRIVER'S LICENSE

- B. A student may be excused for temporary absences resulting from any cause listed below. **Funding is not generated.** Acceptable documentation: 1.) A note describing the reason for the absence signed by the student's parent or guardian. If the student is **18 or older**, or has been declared by the court to be an emancipated minor, student may sign in place of the parent or guardian 2.) Signed note by a doctor and/or 3.) A discipline referral. Documentation will be held at the campus level.
  - a. Attendance Code E Excused
  - b. Attendance Code V Suspended (OSS)
  - c. Attendance Code Q Awaiting Services (Homebound/ Juvenile)
- C. The remaining codes are used for students who are on campus, but not in their assigned classroom when attendance is taken. Funding may be generated. <u>Acceptable documentation</u>: Attendance Correction Request Form **and/or** verified and signed testing rosters from the campus testing coordinator **and/or** signed and verified rosters from the ISS teacher with copy of discipline referral.

a. Attendance Code P Present

b. Attendance Code W ISS (In School Suspension)c. Attendance Code Y D-Hall (Lunch Period ONLY)

D. Students who bring documentation for an absence that does not meet the description of the attendance codes listed in the above sections **A, B or C.** 

a. Attendance Code A Unexcused Absent Without Documentation
 b. Attendance Code U Unexcused Absent with Documentation

#### **Absence Reason Codes**

Reason Codes are to be used with appropriate attendance type codes.

### **Tardies**

For official attendance accounting and FSP purposes, "tardies" do not exist (SAAH, Section 3.6.8) Excessive Tardies cannot be accumulated and converted to an absence.

Tardies are **not** posted in the funding period.

# Daily Attendance Reconciliation

In order to ensure that all attendance records are accurate, the Day Summary report must be reconciled with all other attendance documentation. Each day in a six-week period must be reconciled prior to submitting the Attendance Verification Form for that six-week period. To reconcile daily attendance, the Day Summary report must be cross-referenced with the attendance documentation listed below.

- Sign-in / Sign-out Logs
- Attendance Worksheets from substitutes
- Nurse's Logs
- Main Office Visit Logs
- Counselor's Logs
- Discipline Logs
- Class Admit Slips
- Attendance Correction Request Forms
- Field Trip Rosters
- Homebound Log
- Parent Notes
- Doctor Notes
- Suspension Notifications
- Any other documentation that supports the attendance for the day

### Six Week Attendance Verification

Your district should balance all attendance reports by six-week period to ensure that all reports match. If any attendance data are changed in the accounting system for a six-week period whose information previously balanced, new reports must be generated and balanced. Such changes should be documented.<sup>17</sup> New reports reflecting the changes will be generated at the end of each semester.

 $<sup>^{17}</sup>$  2025-2026 StudentAttendanceAccountingHandbook, Section 2.3.1

#### Six Week Attendance Reconciliation Verification

**Before the Attendance Reconciliation Verification Signature Form can be submitted** for a six-week period, the following tasks must be completed:

- Verify that all student notes have been entered into Skyward, and notes have been filed by date of absence.
- Day Summary reports have been generated and reconciled with all supporting documentation, including, but not limited to, Main Office Visit Logs, Discipline Office Logs, etc.
- Generate and review the Daily Register report for reasonableness. Make any necessary corrections and regenerate corrected report (will be monitored).
- Generate and review the Contact Hours Report for reasonableness. Make any necessary corrections and regenerate corrected report (will be monitored).

#### **Daily Register Report**

Each six-week reporting period, the campus personnel responsible for ensuring student attendance accounting codes are correct should generate Student Detail Reports and review them for reasonableness.<sup>18</sup>

#### **District Summary Report**

District Summary Reports should be generated each six-week reporting period and reviewed by the superintendent or the superintendent's designee. The person reviewing the report should do the following:

- Scrutinize regular attendance totals and special program attendance totals based on approximate membership.
- Investigate all data totals that have an exceptionally high value or a value of zero.
- Compare current year totals to prior year totals to detect unreasonable differences.<sup>19</sup>

Upon receipt of the Attendance Verification Signature Forms from each campus, the PEIMS Department will generate the District Contact Hours Report in Skyward and provide to the superintendent and/or his designee.

#### Maintaining Records

All records associated with the official attendance period—including daily teacher logs, six-week reports, semester reports, notes from parents, documentation from principals, counselors, nurses, doctors, dentists, sign-in/sign-out sheets, Attendance Correction Request Forms, etc.—will be stored electronically in Google Drive at the campus level. Each campus is responsible for organizing and maintaining these records in a secure, clearly labeled folder. Documentation will be retained for five years to meet state auditing and compliance requirements.

 $<sup>^{18}\ {\</sup>tt 2025-2026}\ {\tt StudentAttendanceAccountingHandbook}, {\tt Section}\ {\tt 2.3.1}$ 

 $<sup>^{19}\, {\</sup>it 2025-2026}\, Student Attendance Accounting Handbook, Section\, 2.3.3$ 

### Withdrawal Procedures

#### Non-Attendance/Whereabouts Unknown

According to FEA (LOCAL), SFDRCISD may initiate withdrawal of a student under the age of 19 for non-attendance under the following conditions:

- 1. The student has been absent for ten **consecutive** school days (partial days are not included in the 10 day count); **and**
- 2. **Repeated** efforts by the attendance officer and/or principal to locate the student have been unsuccessful.

Student Services will determine final student status for withdrawals due to whereabouts unknown. Once it has been determined that the student's whereabouts are unknown, and proper documentation has been received, **Student Services** will withdraw the student, with a **Code UNK**, which will convert to PEIMS Code 98 – Dropout. The campus will process the withdrawal paperwork and attach the email from Student Services confirming the whereabouts unknown status.

#### **Not Entitled to Enrollment**

Students not entitled to enrollment will be withdrawn by Student Services with a Code 83 after due process has been afforded and all documentation is in place. Original documentation and withdraw form will be retained at Student Services. A copy will be sent to the campus.

#### Temporary Absences and Withdrawal

The District must **not** withdraw a student who is temporarily absent (for example, as a result of illness or suspension) but still a member of the district (SAAH, Section 3.4.2)

#### 3.4 Withdrawal Procedure

Your district should withdraw a student from the attendance accounting system <u>on the date your district becomes aware the student is no longer a member of the district</u>. With proof of enrollment in a different district or campus, retroactive withdrawals are permitted to the day a student enrolled in another school. Your district must update all attendance accounting records affected by such a change. (See also 3.3.5 Entry and Reentry <u>Dates.</u>)

If a student withdraws before attendance is taken, the withdrawal date is that day. If a student withdraws after attendance is taken, the withdrawal date is the next school day. A student is not in membership on the withdrawal date. Deletion of attendance records will be completed at the district level with proper documentation.

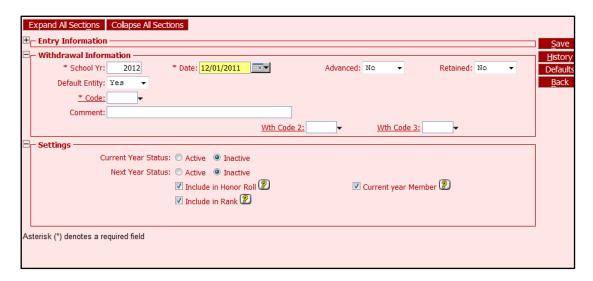
A digital copy of the withdrawal paperwork, including supporting documentation and the confirmation email from Student Services, must be scanned and uploaded to the campus's Google Drive folder under 'Withdrawals,' organized by student last name and date.

#### Withdrawal Information: ST/TB/EW/EW (Student-Tab-Entry/With-Withdraw)

When withdrawing a student, please leave the Default Entity as YES.

Enter Code for withdrawal and Comment to note where student is moving to (include city, state, and name of school if available). Make sure Settings are set to Inactive for Current and Next Year Status.

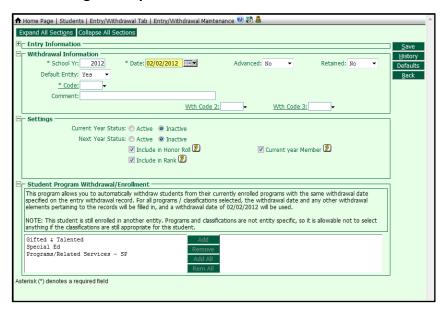
For additional steps on the withdrawal process, please see page 43.



#### PLEASE NOTE:

When withdrawing a student, the following programs in **Special Program Withdrawal/Enrollment** should not be withdrawn: Sp Ed, Bil/ESL, GT and PK.

#### Contact Program Departments when student is withdrawn.



### Checklists

#### Attendance Secretary Daily Checklist

For auditing purposes, the following documentation and any other supporting information must be maintained in the Daily Attendance Folder.

- Make sure an Attendance Worksheet is returned for every absent teacher (for all course/sections). Use these paper rosters to enter appropriate attendance data through Entry by Class or Activity. All Attendance Worksheet's from substitutes must be signed and dated by the person that took attendance.
- Make necessary changes in Skyward based on parent notes, doctor notes, office visit reports, etc. All excuses are to be filed in the student excuse folder.
- Generate a Day Summary/Multi-Period Attendance report and reconcile the daily attendance report with all supporting documentation for that day.
- Generate a Recorded Class Attendance Report
- Generate an Unrecorded Class Attendance Report for all periods
- After all attendance entries and corrections have been made in Skyward, run the final Day Summary report/Multi-Period Attendance report.
- Enter any homebound attendance from the Homebound Attendance Log.
- Ensure all scanned notes, logs, and documentation for the day are uploaded and filed in the designated campus Google Drive attendance folder, organized by date

#### Attendance Secretary Weekly Checklist

For reconciliation purposes, generate and review the reports:

- On the first day of each week, generate a current set of Attendance Worksheets and save to your desktop. In the event of an internet outage, these rosters will be printed for manual attendance recording.
- Teacher Class Summary report every other week to review attendance entered from previous week.
- Blank Schedules Report (ghost students).

#### Attendance Secretary Six-Week Checklist

- Verify that all student notes, office visit reports and other documentation have been entered into Skyward.
- Verify that all Day Summary reports have been reconciled.
- Verify that all daily folders and weekly folders are complete and in order.

For auditing purposes, save the following by 6-weekperiod:

- Generate and verify the Discipline/Attendance Reconciliation report.
- Generate and verify the Perfect Attendance report.
- Generate and verify the Daily Register report.
- Generate and verify the Contact Hours report.
- Attendance Verification Signature Form

Once all necessary changes have been made, generate and save the final Perfect Attendance Report, Daily Register Report, and District Summary Report in the designated Google Drive folder for six-week attendance reconciliation. Complete the Attendance Reconciliation Verification Signature Form, upload the signed form to the designated folder, and email a copy to PEIMS Data Quality.

### **Documentation Retention**

#### General Audit Requirements

Your district must make available and provide to the Financial Compliance Division of TEA copies of all required attendance records **within 20 working days** of the agency's written request. Failure to provide all required attendance records (specific program[s], grant[s], or both) will result in TEA's retaining 100 percent of your district's FSP allotment for the undocumented attendance for the school year(s) for which records have been requested.<sup>20</sup>

All required documentation will be **digitally retained in the campus's designated Google Drive folder** for a minimum of five years to meet state auditing and compliance requirements.

The following documents must be uploaded, clearly labeled, and organized by date and reporting period:

- Attendance Worksheets
- Daily Register Report
- Attendance excuse notes
- Office Visit Reports
- Homebound Service Logs
- Any other supporting documentation to justify attendance entries and/or changes
- Contact Hours Report
- Attendance Verification Forms
- Perfect Attendance Report

All documentation listed below must be scanned or saved and stored in the campus's secure Google Drive folder. Records must be clearly organized by date and type to facilitate quick access for audits. Hard copies may be retained, but the Google Drive version is considered the official electronic record for compliance purposes.

 $<sup>^{20}\, {\</sup>small 2025\text{-}2026}\, Student Attendance Accounting Handbook, Section\, 2.1$ 

# Leaver Reason Crosswalk

2025-2026

Students who drop out for the following reasons in 2024-2025 will be reported in the 2025-2026 PEIMS Fall Submission 1 under the 2025-2026 PEIMS Data Standards.

Code	Short Description	Long Description	State Code
01	GRADUATED	STUDENT GRADUATED	01
03	STUDENT DIED	STUDENT DIED	03
08	PREGNANCY	PREGNANCY RELATED	08
16	DOC-HOME COUNTR	DOC OF RETURN TO HOME COUNTRY	16
20	MEDICAL INJURY	MEDICAL INJURY	20
24	COLLEGE-DEGREE	COLLEGE-WORK TOWARD DEGREE	24
33*	STATUS CHANGE	STATUS CHANGE	
40	IN DIST TRANS	IN DISTRICT TRANSFER	
44	NO SHOW	NO SHOW	
50	SPECIAL PRG	SPECIAL PROGRAM DISMISSAL	
60	HOME SCHOOLING	CURRENTLY BEING HOME SCHOOLED	60
66	REMOVED BY CPS	REMOVED BY CPS; NO CURRENT INFO	66
78	EXPELLED	THROUGHOUT TERM OF EXPULSION	78
79	AFTER EXPULSION	DID NOT RETURN AFTER EXPULSION	98
80	OTHER TX DIST	ENROLLED OTHER TX DISTRICT	98
81	ENROLLED PRVT	TX PRVT/JOB CORPS DIPL PRGM	81
82	SCH OUTSIDE TX	ENROLLED IN SCH OUT TX	82
83*	ADMIN WITHDRAW	NOT ENTITLED TO ENROLLMENT	83
85	GRAD OUT TX RET	GRADUATE OUT TX-RETURN LEFT	85
86	GED OUTSIDE TX	GED OUTSIDE TEXAS	86
87	ENROLL UNIV HS	ENROLL UNIVERSITY HS DIPLOMA	87
88	COURT ORDER	COURT ORDER TO GED PROGRAM	88
89	INCARCERATED	INCARCERATED IN ST JAIL OR FED	89
90	NON TEXAS GRAD	GRAD FROM OTHER STATE-MILITARY	90
98	DROPOUT	DROPOUT	98
ADV*	ADVANCED	ADVANCED 1 OR MORE GR LEVELS	
ATN	POOR ATTENDANCE	PK - POOR ATTENDANCE	98
IMM*	LACKING IMM	LACKING IMMUNIZATIONS	
IRP*	INCOM REG PRO	INCOMPLETE REGISTRATION PROCES	
NPE	NOT ELIGIBLE	PK - PRGM ELIGIBILITY NOT MET	
RET	RETAINED	RETAINED FROM PREVIOUS YR	
SSE	SUMMER SCH END	SUMMER SCHOOL END	
UNK*	WHEREABOUTS UNK	WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN	98
WLI	WAIT LIST IDENT	PK - WAIT LIST IDENTIFIED	
YE	YEAR END	YEAR END	

### PEIMS Leaver Data - Documentation Requirements for the PEIMS Leaver Data

### Graduated or Received an Out-Of-State High School Equivalency Certificate

Code	Translation
01	Student graduated from a campus in this district or charter school
	<b>Definition and use:</b> Use for students who meet all high school graduation requirements (which includes passing the state assessments required for graduation) at any time during the prior school year, including the summer (through August 31) following the close of the prior year.
	To graduate, a student must satisfy the requirements under 19 TAC Chapter 74, Subchapter B. Special education students must satisfy requirements under 19 TAC §89.1070. Students who complete all requirements for graduation in one school year but do not pass the state assessments required for graduation until a later year, are reported as graduates in the school year in which the state assessments are passed and the diploma is issued.
	<b>Documentation requirement</b> : Transcript showing sufficient credits, successful completion of the state assessments (including testing dates) required for graduation, graduation seal, signature of school official, and date of completion.
85	Student graduated outside Texas before entering a Texas public school, entered a Texas public school, and left again
	<b>Definition and use:</b> This code may be used for students who graduated in another state or country before entering Texas public schools. This code may also be used for students who graduated from Texhoma High School, Texhoma, Oklahoma.
	<b>Documentation requirement:</b> Transcript showing sufficient credits, date, and signature of school official, and a diploma with a graduation seal.
86	Student completed a High School Equivalency Certificate outside Texas
	<b>Definition and use:</b> This code may be used for students who earned high school equivalency certificates outside Texas, including students living in Texas and earning high school equivalency certificates online from a testing company in another state, before enrolling in or after leaving Texas public schools.
	<b>Documentation requirement:</b> Acceptable documentation is a copy of the high school equivalency certificate or written documentation provided by the testing company showing completion of the high school equivalency. Written documentation from the testing company must include the date of high school equivalency completion, location, address, and contact information of the company.
90	Student graduated from another state under provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
	<b>Definition and use:</b> Per TEC §162.002, student lives in the household of an active-duty military service person, transferred into Texas public schools at the beginning of or during his or her senior year, did not meet requirements to graduate from Texas public schools, did meet requirements to graduate from a school in the sending state, and, under provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, graduated from a school or district in the sending state.
	<b>Documentation requirement:</b> Transcript showing sufficient credits, date, and signature of school official, or a diploma with a graduation seal.

#### **Moved to Other Educational Setting**

Code	Translation
24	Student entered college and is working towards an Associate's or Bachelor's degree
	<b>Definition and use:</b> This code is for students who leave secondary school to enter college early. It should be used for students who are enrolled full-time (at least 9 credit hours per semester). This code is also for students who leave school to enter a dual-credit program established by the Texas Legislature at the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science at the University of North Texas, the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities at Lamar University, the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, and the Texas Academy of International Studies at Texas A&M International University.
	<b>Documentation requirement:</b> Documentation of enrollment in a college or university must indicate that the student is enrolled full-time in an academic program. Per federal requirement, it is <u>not</u> permissible for a district to document that, at the time of withdrawal, the student intended to enter a post-secondary educational setting. A district must document that the student has actually entered a post-secondary educational setting. One of the following types of documentation is required to verify enrollment:
	Transcript request. Acceptable documentation of enrollment in college is a records request from the college in which the student is enrolled. Telephone requests must be documented in writing, including the date of the call, the name of the college requesting the records, the name of the person making the request, and the name of the person who received the call. Telephone requests should appear on a standardized, district-approved form. The original form should be included in the student's permanent file. Documentation of the method of records dissemination also must be included in the student's permanent file (e.g., copy of fax activity log, certified mail receipt, encrypted email receipt confirmation, or postage/mail log with complete address information for requesting school).  Verification by an authorized representative of the college. Written documentation, signed and dated, by a representative from the college verifying enrollment is also acceptable documentation. The documentation must state the name and location of the college in which the student is enrolled and the date of enrollment. Other acceptable documentation is written documentation of an oral statement provided by a representative of the college, signed and dated by an authorized representative of the district. The statement should include the name and location of the college and verification that the student is enrolled.  Verification by the parent/guardian or qualified student. Acceptable documentation includes written documentation, signed and dated, from the parent, guardian, or qualified student stating that the student has enrolled in college in a program leading to an associate's or bachelor's degree.
60	Student is home schooled
	<b>Definition and use:</b> Student is being home schooled. This code may be used only for a student whose parent/guardian confirms that the student is pursuing, under direct supervision of the parent/guardian, a curriculum designed to meet basic education goals. The district is not required to obtain evidence that the program being provided meets educational standards.
	<b>Documentation requirement:</b> A district must document that the parent/guardian is home schooling the student. Per federal requirement, it is <u>not</u> permissible for a district to document that, at the time of withdrawal, the student intended to be home schooled. The following documentation is required to verify enrollment:
	Verification by the parent/guardian. Written documentation, signed and dated, from the parent/guardian stating that the student is being home schooled is acceptable documentation. Documentation from parents/guardians must indicate the actual date home schooling began.
66	Student was removed by Child Protective Services (CPS) and the district has not been informed of the student's current status or enrollment
	<b>Definition and use:</b> This code applies only to Child Protective Services. Private agencies that provide asylum for students do not have the legal authority to remove students from school.
	<b>Documentation requirement:</b> Acceptable documentation includes due process documentation supporting the withdrawal; a written statement, signed and dated by the CPS officer, including the CPS officer's name and contact information; or written documentation of an oral statement by a CPS representative that the child was removed, including the CPS representative's name, the date of the conversation, and the signature of the school official.

Code	Translation
81	Student enrolled in a private school in Texas
82	Student enrolled in a public or private school outside of Texas
	<b>Definition and use:</b> Student is enrolled in a private school in Texas (code 81), the Texas Job Corps Diploma Program (code 81), or a public or private school outside Texas (code 82). Documentation of actual enrollment is required. This code is also used when a student moves from the district without withdrawing but the district receives a records request.
	If the student enrolls in another school in the district or another public school district in Texas, a leaver record is not submitted.
	If the district did not assign code 81 or code 82 when the student stopped attending, the district can change the original code assigned to the student when the records request or communication from the parent/guardian or qualified student is received. If the original withdrawal date for the student is later than the date the student enrolled in the other school, the withdrawal date must be changed, and all attendance accounting records affected by this change must be updated.
	<b>Documentation requirement:</b> Per federal requirement, it is <u>not</u> permissible for a district to document that, at the time of withdrawal, the student intended to enter another educational setting. A district must document that the student has actually enrolled in a private school in Texas, the Texas Job Corps Diploma Program, or a private or public school outside Texas. One of the following types of documentation is required to verify enrollment:
	Transcript request. Acceptable documentation of enrollment in another school is a records request from the school in which the student is enrolled. Telephone requests are acceptable, but they must be documented in writing, including the date of the call, the name of the school requesting the records, the name of the person making the request, and the name of the person who received the call. Telephone requests should appear on a standardized, district-approved form. The original of the form should be included in the student's permanent file. Documentation of the method of records dissemination also must be included in the student's permanent file (e.g., copy of fax activity log, certified mail receipt, encrypted email receipt confirmation, or postage/mail log with complete address information for requesting school).
	Verification by the superintendent or authorized campus or district administrator of the receiving district. Written documentation, signed and dated by a representative from the receiving school, verifying enrollment is also acceptable documentation. The documentation must state the name and location of the school in which the student is enrolled and the date of enrollment. Other acceptable documentation is written documentation of an oral statement by a representative of the receiving school providing the name and location of and contact information for the school and verifying that the student is enrolled, signed and dated by an authorized campus or district administrator of the district.
	Verification by the parent/guardian or qualified student. Acceptable documentation includes written documentation, signed and dated, from the parent/guardian or qualified student stating that the student has enrolled in a private school in Texas or a private or public school outside of Texas leading to the completion of a high school diploma.
87	Student withdrew from/left school to enroll in the Texas Tech University ISD High School Diploma Program or The University of Texas at Austin High School Diploma Program
	<b>Definition and use:</b> Student was withdrawn from school and parent/guardian or qualified student indicated at time of withdrawal that the student has enrolled in the State Board of Education-authorized Texas Tech University ISD High School Diploma Program or The University of Texas at Austin High School Diploma Program.
	<b>Documentation requirement:</b> The district must receive either a) a records or transcript request from the high school diploma program or b) written documentation, signed and dated, from the high school diploma program stating that the student is enrolled.

### Withdrawn by School District

Code	Translation
78	Student was expelled under the provisions of TEC §37.007 and cannot return to school
	Definition and use: This code may only be used when:
	<ul> <li>the student was expelled under the provisions of TEC §37.007, and</li> <li>the term of expulsion has not expired <u>or</u> the student's failure to attend school is due to court action.</li> </ul>
	This code may only be used for a student who was expelled for an offense included in TEC §37.007. This code is not intended for use by districts which assign students to a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP).
	Documentation requirement: Due process documentation supporting the expulsion.
83	Student was withdrawn by district because the student was not entitled to enrollment
	<b>Definition and use:</b> This code is for situations in which the district discovers when verifying enrollment information that the student is not entitled to enrollment in the district because (a) the student is not a resident of the district, (b) is not entitled under other provisions of TEC §25.001 or as a transfer student, or (c) was not entitled to public school enrollment under TEC §38.001 or a corresponding rule of the Texas Department of State Health Services for immunization, provisional enrollment, or exemption. It is not for a student who was a resident of the district and who stops attending because he/she has moved.
	Subject to the exceptions in TEC §38.001(c), a student is required to be fully immunized against disease as required by the Texas Department of State Health Services (TEC §38.001(a)). A student may be provisionally admitted if the student has begun the required immunizations and continues to receive the necessary immunizations as rapidly as medically feasible (TEC §38.001(e)). Except as provided by TEC §38.001(c) or by rule of the Department of State Health Services, a student who is not fully immunized and has not begun the required immunizations may not attend school. For further information about enrollment procedures, please see the <i>Student Attendance Accounting Handbook</i> . For further information about immunization requirements, immunization exemptions, and immunization documentation, please contact the Texas Department of State Health Services.
	<b>Documentation requirement:</b> Due process documentation supporting the withdrawal. All district actions to withdraw a student must be documented or the documentation for use of this leaver reason code may be considered insufficient. For purposes of leaver reason code 83, due process is defined as completion of the following steps:
	<ol> <li>District provides oral or written notice, appropriately documented, to the student's parent, guardian, or qualified student him- or herself of intent to withdraw the student, reasons for the withdrawal, effective date of withdrawal, and date of hearing or conference at which the parent, guardian, or qualified student will have an opportunity to respond to the allegations that the student is not entitled to be enrolled in the district. Steps 2 and 3 are not required for cases in which the parent, guardian, or qualified student agrees that the student is not entitled to enrollment in the district. Step 4 is always required for charter schools.</li> <li>District provides a hearing or conference at which the district presents the reasons for withdrawal, and the parent, guardian, or qualified student is given the opportunity to respond to the reasons for withdrawal.</li> <li>District provides a written report to the parent, guardian, or qualified student that contains the findings of fact and district decision following the hearing or conference. The written report shall include notice of</li> </ol>
	the parent's, guardian's, or qualified student's right to appeal the district's decision.  4. Charter schools shall notify the school district in which the student resides within three business days of withdrawing a student from a charter school, per Texas Administrative Code §100.1211.

#### **Other Reasons**

Code	Translation
03	Student died while enrolled in school or during the summer break after completing the prior school year  Definition and use: Self-explanatory.  Documentation requirement: Acceptable documentation includes a copy of the death certificate or obituary; a program from the funeral or memorial service; written documentation, signed and dated, from the parent or guardian; or written documentation of an oral statement by a parent or guardian stating that the student has died.
08	Student (female or male) withdrew from/left school because of pregnancy  Definition and use: This code should be used only if the parent, guardian, or student indicates verbally or in writing that the student is leaving school or left school because of pregnancy. This code should not be assigned based only on the fact that the student is pregnant at the time he or she leaves school.  This code can be used for female or male students.  Documentation requirement: Acceptable documentation is any written documentation, including documentation of oral statements by the parent, guardian, or student, indicating that the student is leaving school or left school because of pregnancy.
16	Definition and use: Use for students who are leaving the United States to return to their home country or emigrate to another country. A student may be leaving with or without family members to live with his or her family, immediate or extended, in their home country or in another country. The citizenship of the student is not relevant in assigning this code. This code can also be used for foreign exchange students.  Documentation requirement: Acceptable documentation is a copy of the Transfer Document for Binational Migrant Student completed at the time the student withdraws from school, signed and dated by an authorized campus or district administrator. Acceptable documentation is also a copy of the withdrawal form signed and dated by the parent/guardian or qualified student and a campus or district administrator. The withdrawal form should indicate that the student is leaving school because the student is returning to their home country or emigrating to another country and should specify the destination. Written documentation, signed and dated, from the parent/guardian or qualified student stating that the student is leaving school because the student is returning to their home country or emigrating to another country is also acceptable documentation. Acceptable documentation for foreign exchange students includes written documentation, signed and dated, from the student's host family or the foreign student advisor verifying the student's return to his or her home country. Other acceptable documentation is written documentation of an oral statement by a parent, adult neighbor, or other adult with knowledge of the family's whereabouts, signed and dated by an authorized campus or district administrator.

#### 20 Student withdrew from/left school because of a medical injury

**Definition and use:** Students who have suffered a condition, injury, or illness that requires substantial medical care and leaves the student unable to attend school and assigned to a medical or residential treatment facility are entitled to receive educational services. This code may be used if educational services are refused by the qualified student or the student's parent or guardian and the student is withdrawn from school.

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) should be aware, however, that if the illness, condition, or injury suffered by the student leads the LEA to suspect that the illness, condition, or injury has resulted in a disability identified under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), along with a corresponding need for special education and related services, the LEA must comply with federal law requiring public agencies to locate, evaluate, and identify students with disabilities who need special education and related services. In this situation, once the LEA obtains informed consent from the parent, guardian, or qualified student consistent with the consent requirements in 34 C.F.R. § 300.300, it must conduct a full and individual initial evaluation (FIE) for the student pursuant to the IDEA. The leaver code may be used in this situation if the parent, guardian, or qualified student denies the LEA's request for an FIE, refuses educational services, and withdraws the student from school.

#### Code Translation

88

**Documentation requirement:** For general education students, acceptable documentation includes a written statement or an oral statement by the parent, guardian, or qualified student properly documented by a designated LEA staff member that: (a) the student has suffered a condition, injury, or illness that requires substantial medical care; (b) the student is unable to attend school as a result; (c) the student has been assigned to a medical or residential treatment facility; (d) the student has been offered education services; and (e) the parent, guardian, or qualified student has refused those services.

With respect to students receiving special education and related services, the refusal to accept these services should be in writing pursuant to 34 C.F.R. § 300.300(b)(4). Acceptable documentation in this case, thus, includes a written statement or an oral statement by a parent, guardian, or qualified student properly documented by a designated LEA staff member that: (a) the student has suffered a condition, injury, or illness that requires substantial medical care; (b) the student is unable to attend school as a result; (c) the student has been assigned to a medical or residential treatment facility; and (d) the student has been offered education services. A refusal or revocation of consent for special education services, however, should be in a written statement (rather than a documented oral statement) from the parent, guardian, or qualified student and maintained in the student's eligibility folder pursuant to 19 TAC § 89.1075(a).

If the student was not identified as eligible for special education prior to the illness, condition, or injury at issue, and the LEA suspects that the illness, condition, or injury has resulted in a disability and corresponding need for special education and related services, the following documentation is acceptable: a written statement or an oral statement by the parent, guardian, or qualified student properly documented by a designated LEA staff member that: (a) the student has suffered a condition, injury, or illness that requires substantial medical care; (b) the student is unable to attend school as a result; (c) the student has been assigned to a medical or residential treatment facility; (d) the student has been offered an FIE and education services; and (e) the parent, guardian, or qualified student has refused both the FIE and education services.

# Student was ordered by a court to attend a High School Equivalency program and has not earned a Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency (TxCHSE)

**Definition and use:** This code is for students who are court-ordered to attend a high school equivalency program and have not earned a TxCHSE certificate at any time during the prior school year, including the summer (through August 31) following the close of the prior year.

**Documentation requirement:** Acceptable documentation is a copy of the court order stating that the student has been ordered to attend a high school equivalency program. Documentation must include the name of the student, the date of the order, the name of the judge making the order, and the county in which the judge presides. The order should state that the court is ordering the student to attend a high school equivalency program or to take a high school equivalency exam.

89	Student is incarcerated in a state jail or federal penitentiary as an adult or as a person certified to stand trial as an adult
	<b>Definition and use:</b> Student is incarcerated in a state jail or federal penitentiary as an adult or as a person certified to stand trial as an adult.
	<b>Documentation requirement:</b> Acceptable documentation is one of the following: 1) Written documentation of an oral statement by a law enforcement agency, the office of the prosecuting attorney, or the jail or penitentiary, to an authorized representative of the district verifying that the student is incarcerated. The documentation of the oral statement shall be signed and dated by the authorized district representative. 2) Written notification from a law enforcement agency, the office of the prosecuting attorney, or the jail or penitentiary, verifying that the student is incarcerated.
98	Other (reason unknown or not listed above)
	<b>Definition and use:</b> This code is used for students who are withdrawn by the school district after a period of time because they have quit attending school and their reason for leaving is not known. It is also used for students who withdrew from/left school for reasons not listed above.

 $\underline{https://tealprod.tea.state.tx.us/TWEDS/103/0/0/DataSubmission/TechnicalResources/1818\#}$ 

# Absences Type Codes 2025-2026

Туре		2023 2020		Count	Include in	Affects
Code	Short Description	Long Description	Category	in Truancy	Total Attendance	Funding
*	SERIOUS ILLNESS	SERIOUS/LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESS	Excused	N	Υ	N
~	DRIVER'S LICENSE	DRIVER'S LIC OR LEARNER PERMIT	Excused	N	Υ	N
1	PLAYING OF TAPS	PLAYING OF TAPS AT MILITARY	Excused	N	Υ	N
3	VISIT HIGHER ED	VISIT HIGHER ED. INSTITUTION	Excused	N	Y	N
4	CITIZENSHIP	CITIZENSHIP/PAPERWORK/CEREMONY	Excused	N	Y	N
5	ELECTION CLERK	ACT AS ELECTION CLERK	Excused	N	Y	N
7	MILITARY	ACTIVE DUTY LEAVE/DEPLOYMENT	Excused	N	Υ	N
8	ENLIST ACTIVITY	PURSUE ENLISTMENT ACTIVITY 17+	Excused	N	Y	N
Α	ABSENT	NON SCHOOL RELATED-NO DOCUMENT	Unexcused	Y	Y	Υ
E	EXCUSED	EXCUSED ABSENCE	Excused	N	Υ	Υ
Н	4-H	4-H (W/PROPER DOCUMENTATION)	Excused	N	N	N
I	HOLY DAYS	HOLY DAYS W/DOCUMENTATION	Excused	N	Υ	N
J	COURT	COURT (W/DOCUMENTATION)	Excused	N	Υ	N
K	APPNT STU CHILD	MED APPNT STU CHILD TEMP ABS	Excused	N	Υ	N
0	MED APPNT W/DOC	MED APPNT W/DOC TEMP ABS	Excused	N	Y	N
Р	PRESENT	PRESENT	Other	N	N	N
Q	AWAITING SVCS	AWAITING SERVICES	Excused	N	Υ	Υ
R	JUVENILE DETENT	JUVENILE DETENTION	Excused	N	N	N
Т	TARDY	TARDY	Tardy	N	N	Υ
U	UNEXCUSED	UNEXCUSED ABSENCE W/DOCUMENT	Unexcused	Y	Y	Υ
V	OSS	OSS	Excused	N	Y	Υ
W	ISS	ISS	Excused	N	N	N
Х	HOMEBOUND/CEHI	HOMEBOUND/CEHI W/DOCUMENTATION	Other	N	N	N
Υ	D-HALL	LUNCH PERIOD ONLY	Excused	N	N	N
Z	SCHOOL TRIP	SCH RELATED-UIL/FIELD TRIP	Excused	N	N	N ised 07 15, 2025

Revised 07.15. 2025

# Absence Reason Codes 2025-2026

Reason			
Code	Short Description	Long Description	Category
@	ELEMENTARY SGLC	ELEMENTARY SGLC ON CAMPUS	EXCUSED
#	STUDENT @ SGLC	STUDENT @ SGLC	EXCUSED/UNEXCUSED
48	PARENT NOTE	PARENT NOTE REC'D AFTER 48 HRS	UNEXCUSED
AA	ADMIN APPROVAL	ADMINISTRATOR APPROVED ABSENCE	EXCUSED
AD	ADMINISTRATOR	DISTRICT/CAMPUS ADMINISTRATOR	EXCUSED
AP	AP TESTING	ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTING	EXCUSED
AT	ATHLETIC	ATHLETIC UIL	EXCUSED
CC	COUNSELOR	DISTRICT/CAMPUS COUNSELOR	EXCUSED
СТ	CTE COMPETITION	CTE COMPETITION	EXCUSED
CV	COVID W/ DOC	COVID WITH DOCUMENTAITON	EXCUSED
DF	DEATH IN FAMLY	DEATH IN FAMLY	EXCUSED
DO	DISC OFFICER	CAMPUS DISCIPLINE OFFICER	EXCUSED
DR	DOCTOR NOTE	US PHYSICIAN-PROVIDED EXCUSE	EXCUSED
DX	DYSLEXIA	DYSLEXIA SERVICES	EXCUSED
EX	EXEMPT FINAL EX	EXEMPT FROM FINAL EXAM	EXCUSED
FA	FINE ARTS	FINE ARTS UIL (BND,CHR,THTR)	EXCUSED
FI	FAMILY ILLNES	IMMEDIATE FAMILY ILLNESS	EXCUSED
FN	FUNERAL	FUNERAL	EXCUSED
НВ	HOMEBOUND	HOMEBOUND	EXCUSED
IL	ILL	PERSONAL ILLNESS	EXCUSED
JV	JUVENILE DET	JUVENILE DETENTION	EXCUSED
LA	LOCAL ASSESSMEN	LOCAL ASSESSMENT	EXCUSED
MC	CARE OF MINOR	CARE OF MINOR CHILD	EXCUSED
NT	NO TEACHER	NO TEACHER ASSIGNED	EXCUSED
NU	NURSE	DISTRICT/CAMPUS NURSE	EXCUSED
О3	CON W/O DR EXC	CONSECUTIVE W/O DR EXCUSE	UNEXCUSED
PR	PERSONAL	PERSONAL ABSENCE	UNEXCUSED
QU	QUARANTINED	QUARANTINED	EXCUSED
SA	STATE ASSMNT	STAAR/EOC TESTING	EXCUSED
SC	SCHOLASTIC	SCHOLASTIC UIL	EXCUSED
SE	IEP	IEP	EXCUSED
SP	SP PRGM TESTING	TESTING (SPED, BIL, GT, ETC)	EXCUSED
SR	SENIORS CLEARED	SENIORS THAT HAVE CLEARED	EXCUSED
TP	TELPAS TESTING	TELPAS TESTING	EXCUSED
TU	TCHR UNAVAILABL	HMBND TCHR UNAVAILABLE	EXCUSED
VA	VACATION	VACATION-PERSONAL ABSENCE	UNEXCUSED
VC	VAC	VOCATIONAL ADJUSTMENT CLASS	EXCUSED
VT	VIRTUAL INSTR	VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION	EXCUSED
WE	WEATHER	WEATHER EVENT	EXCUSED
WT	TEACHER	WITH TEACHER	EXCUSED

Revised Juy15, 2025

# **Truancy Prevention**

**TASB Legal Services:** 

#### Snapshot Truancy Guide beginning 2015

House Bill 2398, passed this 84th legislative session, made numerous sweeping changes to the landscape of truancy laws in the state of Texas. This piece of legislation, effective September 1, 2015, addresses a school district's responsibility to address student truant conduct, including additional requirements for implementation of truancy prevention measures, and referral of a student to truancy court. Heading into the 2015-16 school year, school attendance officers, principals, school resource officers, assistant principals, and other pertinent school officials will need to understand the landscape as it now exists in light of House Bill 2398. This overview will highlight the differences in the relevant truancy provisions found in the Texas Education Code.

Before House Bill 2398	2015 Year Forward
Compulsory attendance: children ages 6-17 are required to attend school. Excludes students who are 18 years of age.  Education Code § 25.085	Compulsory attendance: children ages 6-18 are required to attend school. This bill adds 18 year olds to compulsory attendance requirements.  Education Code § 25.085
Older students: a referral to truancy court is prohibited for students attending school after their 18th birthday.  Education Code § 25.094	Older students: a referral to truancy court is prohibited for students attending school after their 19th birthday.  School districts may issue a warning letter to a student attending school after age 19 and may revoke enrollment for the student if the person has more than 5 unexcused absences in one semester; or as an alternative, impose a behavior improvement plan on the student (see below). A school district cannot revoke the enrollment of an older student on a day on which the student is physically present at school.  Education Code § 25.085; Family Code § 65.002
Truant conduct defined: if a student is absent from school on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, or on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period.	Truant conduct defined: if a student is absent from school on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year.

Education Code § 25.094	Note: truant conduct eligible for referral to truant court does not include a student's failure to attend school on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period.  Family Code § 65.003
Warning notice: at the beginning of the school year notice must be sent to students' parents that if the student is absent on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six month period, or on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period, the student's parent is subject to prosecution and the student is subject to referral to court for criminal prosecution of truancy conduct.  Education Code § 25.095	Warning notice: at the beginning of the school year, a district must send notice to students' parents that if the student is absent on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six month period, the student's parent is subject to prosecution and the student is subject to referral to a truancy court.  If a student has been absent without excuse on three days or parts of days within a four-week period, the school district shall issue a warning notice to inform the parent that the student is subject to truancy prevention measures in addition to other statutory requirements in existence.  Education Code § 25.095
Attendance officer duties: a licensed peace officer serving as an attendance officer may take necessary measures to enforce compulsory attendance requirements, including, but not limited to taking a student into custody with the permission of the student's parent or in obedience to a court-ordered legal process  Education Code § 25.091	Attendance officer duties: a licensed officer serving as an attendance officer may no longer take a student into custody even if the parent provides permission or pursuant to a court-ordered legal process  Note: all other duties and powers related to an attendance officer are left intact, including, escorting a student, at the request of a parent, to a school campus to ensure attendance  Education Code § 25.091
Truancy prevention measures: a school district is required to adopt truancy prevention measures (TPM) to address conduct related to truancy.  Education Code § 25.0915	Truancy prevention measures: a school district is required to adopt at a minimum the following TPM's:  • Impose a behavior improvement plan including the specific behavior required or prohibited of the student and the period of time the plan will be in place;

- Impose school-based community service;
- Refer the student to counseling, mediation, mentoring, teen-court, or other in-school or out-of-school service aimed at addressing the truant behavior

Note: guidance on sample truancy prevention measures is included in Appendix A.

Education Code § 25.0915

Application of TPM: school district discretion on when to begin applying TPM's to a student who has been absent, but common practice has been to apply TPM's as early as the third absence within a four-week period

No Education Code provision

Application of TPM: a school district must begin application of TPM's if a student fails to attend school without excuse on three or more days or parts of days within a fourweek period

Note: a school district may apply TPM's to all age students required to attend school under compulsory attendance requirements

Education Code § 25.0915 (a-4)

#### Failure to Attend School

HB 2398 has removed Section 25.094 (Failure to Attend School) from the Texas Education Code. This means that a student who is absent from school for 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period cannot be referred to court for criminal prosecution of the offense of failure to attend school.

Referral to court for Failure to Attend
School: if a student fails to attend school
without excuse on 10 or more days or parts
of day within a six-month period, the school
district shall file a complaint against the
student or student's parent or both for
failure to attend school. The school district is
required to file on the student or parent or
both within 10 days of the student's 10th
absence.

If the student is absent from school without excuse on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period, the school district may file a complaint against the

Referral to court for truant conduct: if a student fails to attend school without excuse on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period, a school district shall refer a student to truancy court within 10 school days of the student's 10th absence.

A district may delay referral to truancy court if the district is applying TPM's and the TPM's are succeeding, or it is not in the best interest of the student to refer the student to truancy court.

A school district may refer a student ages 12-18 to truancy court.

student, parent, or both for failure to attend school.

A school district may refer a student ages 12-17 to a court for failure to attend school.

Education Code §§ 25.0951, 25.094, 25.093

A school district is prohibited from referring the following students to truancy court for truant conduct and must provide counseling:

- Pregnant students;
- Students in foster care program;
- Homeless students;
- Students who are principal income earners for their family

Note: The Texas Office of Courts
Administration's Truancy Reform Website
offers additional resources for school
administrators implementing HB 2398,
including flowcharts for truancy court
procedures and school responsibilities,
available at: <a href="www.txcourts.gov/publications-training/training-materials/truancy-reform.aspx">www.txcourts.gov/publications-training/training-materials/truancy-reform.aspx</a>.

Education Code §§ 25.0951, 25.0915. Family Code § 65.002.

Court referral documentation: referral to court for failure to attend school must include a statement from the school certifying that: TPM's were applied but failed to address attendance; specify whether the student is eligible for special education services.

Education Code § 25.0915, 25.0951

Court referral documentation: referral to truancy court must still be accompanied by a statement from the school certifying that TPM's were applied but failed; and specify whether the student is eligible for or receives special education services.

Changes to the law have increased the discretion that prosecutors and courts have to dismiss a petition filed by a school district alleging truant conduct for varying reasons, including but not limited to:

- Does not include information required:
- Conduct does not satisfy the elements of truant conduct;
- Not timely filed;
- Prosecutor's discretion

Education Code §§ 25.0951, 25.0915. Family Code § 65.053

Parent contributing to non-attendance: a school district may file a complaint for criminal prosecution against a parent in court for contributing to the non-attendance of a student.

Education Code § 25.093

Parent contributing to non-attendance: a school district may still file a complaint for criminal prosecution against a parent. State law has been amended to include that this offense may be punishable by fine only with fines ranging from: \$100 for first offense to \$500 for fifth or subsequent offenses.

State law has been amended to require a school district to provide evidence of the parent's "criminal negligence" in contributing to the non-attendance of the student.

Note: evidence of "criminal negligence" can include documentation of warning notices, implementation of a behavior improvement contract signed by a parent and student, and any other information contained by the school district demonstrating an attempt to work with the student's parents.

Education Code §§ 25.093, 25.0951, 25.0952

Truancy prevention facilitator: no requirement to have a truancy prevention facilitator.

No Education Code provision

Truancy prevention facilitator: a school district shall employ a truancy prevention facilitator to:

- Implement TPM's;
- Meet annually with a court case manager to discuss effectiveness of TPM's

A school district is allowed to appoint an existing district employee to serve as a truancy prevention facilitator.

Note: School districts have likely required attendance officers to perform this function in the past.

Education Code §25.0915

Truancy court: a student referred to court for failure to attend school may be processed in one of two ways depending on the size of the county the school district is located in and the court the student's case is filed in:

Truancy court: a student between the ages of 12-18 alleged to have missed 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year shall be referred to truancy court for civil processing only.

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# **Appendix A: Truancy prevention measures, guidance and examples**

Generally speaking, truancy prevention measures TPM are programs or services that promote consistent school attendance while addressing the underlying risk factors that may lead to truancy. Since 2011, the Texas Education Code has required districts to adopt TPM. Tex. Educ. Code § 25.0915. The 2011 amendments to the Texas Education Code did not describe what TPM were required, however, so districts were left to figure out the appropriate measure their own. In 2015, The Texas Legislature enacted HB 2398, adding specific examples of TPM to the existing law.

State law does not define the terms used to describe required TPM. However, each term must be interpreted in light of the legislative intent to reduce criminal penalties for truancy.

**Behavior improvement plan.** As written, HB 2398 requires the behavior improvement plan to include: (1) a specific description of the behavior that is required or prohibited for the student; (2) the period for which the plan is effective, not to exceed 45 school days; or (3) the penalties for additional absences, including disciplinary action or referral to truancy court. Ideally, a behavior improvement plan would include all three elements. In addition, the plan should set out measurable goals to improve attendance.

The goals should be appropriately based on the student's age and the factors that are contributing to nonattendance (e.g., using an alarm clock, going to bed earlier, arriving at the bus stop on time). The plan could require the student to check in regularly with an employee mentor at the school. The plan could also restrict certain privileges, such as off-campus lunch, until the student meets specific attendance goals.

School-based programs. Districts should develop attendance procedures that encourage campus staff to reach out to families and determine the root causes of failure to attend school. For example, parents should be immediately notified of any unexplained absence, followed by other interventions (e.g., phone calls and/or home visits) to find out what is the issue behind repeated unexcused absences. If an issue is identified as preventing a student from attending school, appropriate district employees should determine whether there is any school-based community service that can address the issue. For example, the district may offer parenting programs or meetings to ensure parents understand attendance requirements and have a plan to get students to school. As stated above, HB 2398 permits a district to impose a school-based community service when a student is absent without excuse on three or more days during a four-week period. As such, it appears a district may require a student's

participation in the service. The district could require a student to attend counseling to deal with drug and alcohol issues or after-school tutoring to increase student engagement. (Note that HB 2398 requires a district to offer counseling if a student is determined to be truant due to pregnancy, being in the state foster program, homelessness, or being the principal income earner for the student's family.) Many factors could contribute to truancy, some of which overlap with the district's legal obligations to serve students with particular needs. Therefore, the truancy prevention facilitator and other employees responsible for implementing TPM should be familiar with the district's policies regarding bullying and harassment, students with disabilities, and homeless students, and should be prepared to offer relevant services.

Community-based programs. Many districts already have established relationships with external organizations with programs designed to promote consistent school attendance.

Some commonly known organizations that can address truancy through mentoring programs or other types of partnerships include Communities in Schools and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. The truancy prevention facilitator should be aware of local options for mentoring, counseling, and other community-based services or programs.

#### A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO ATTENDANCE

Beyond providing TPM to a student in a specific instance, districts should take a universal approach to promoting a culture of attendance. This includes training staff to talk meaningfully with students and parents about the attendance policy and the root causes of unexcused absences. Set out attendance expectations when school begins; don't wait for a problem. A truly comprehensive approach includes collaborating with external partners (community organizations, law enforcement, courts) as well as offering services and programs to a student's family as appropriate.

For more information on this and other school law topics, visit TASB School Law eSource online at schoollawesource.tasb.org.

This document is provided for educational purposes only and contains information to facilitate a general understanding of the law. It is not an exhaustive treatment of the law on this subject nor is it intended to substitute for the advice of an attorney. Consult with your own attorneys to apply these legal principles to specific fact situations.

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# A New Approach to Targeting Truancy

On Sept. 1, 2015, new rules addressing truancy take effect. Use this flowchart to see the new process that will send a truant student to court.

If a student has three unexcused absences in a four-week period...

The school must inform parents of the child's absences, warn them of potential truancy measures and request a face-to-face meeting.

The school must implement truancy prevention measures.

If a student has 10 unexcused absences in a six-month period...

The school must evaluate whether the student's absences are the result of a pregnancy, homelessness, foster care or because he or she is the primary earner for the family.

If they are, the school may not refer the student to truancy court. Instead, the school will offer additional counseling and support.

Source: Texas Municipal Courts Education Center, Texas Office of Court Administration Credit: Mallory Busch, mbusch@texastribune.org

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To see this flowchart and accompanying story online, use this link: trib.it/truancy-tx If they are not, the school may file a criminal complaint against the parents in court. Schools must prove the absences were unexcused and a result of the parents' negligence.

If the school finds its truancy plan is not working, the student can be referred to a truancy court. If the school determines its truancy prevention plan is working, then a referral to court will not be made.

The student can be fined \$100, have his or her driving privileges revoked, or be referred to the juvenile court system.

# **COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE & TRUANCY**

Published online in TASB School Law eSource

In 2015, the Texas legislature removed the criminal offense of failure to attend school from the Texas Education Code. Instead, districts are expected to address student truancy by implementing prevention measures, identifying circumstances contributing to a student's unexcused absences, and taking specific action. Although truancy is no longer a criminal offense, districts may still refer a student to truancy court. However, the intent of the law is that court referrals will be used as a last resort.

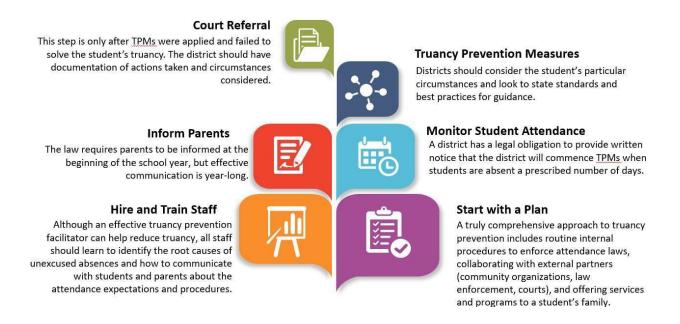
School attendance officers, principals and assistant principals, school resource officers, and other pertinent school officials need to understand how to navigate the specific laws and rules created to address student truancy. This overview will highlight some of the required actions a district must take to enforce compulsory attendance law in Texas.

#### TRUANCY UNDER THE TEXAS EDUCATION CODE

Absent an exemption such as attendance at a private school or homeschool, Texas law requires students age 6-19 to attend school each day that instruction is provided. Compulsory attendance also applies to students who are younger than six who have previously been enrolled in first grade and to students below the age of six who are voluntarily enrolled in prekindergarten or kindergarten. For students over the age of 19, truancy may result in revocation of enrollment in certain circumstances. Tex. Educ. Code §§ 25.085-.086.

School districts are required to notify parents of attendance requirements at the beginning of the school year. This notice must state that the parent may be subject to prosecution and the student may be referred to truancy court if the student is absent 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period. Tex. Educ. Code § 25.095.

If a student has unexcused absences on three days or parts of days within a four-week period, the district must send a warning notice to inform the parent that the student is subject to truancy prevention measures (TPMs). Generally, tardies are not considered absences. Unexcused absences do not include absences that are excused by state law and local school district policy. Tex. Educ. Code §§ 25.086-.087, .095; Tex. Educ. Agency, To the Administrator Addressed Letter Re: Attendance, (Aug. 18, 2017). For a list of excused absences, see TASB Policies FEA (LEGAL) and (LOCAL).



#### **DISTRICT ACTION**

# **Appoint an Attendance Officer**

The Texas Education Code allows the school board to appoint school attendance officers. If the school board does not select a school attendance officer, the superintendent and the peace officers in the district will perform the duties of the attendance officer. The Texas Education Code also describes the powers and duties of an attendance officer, including investigations, home visits, court referrals, and taking a child into custody or escorting a child to campus. Tex. Educ. Code §§ 25.088-.091. For more information on the powers and duties of an attendance officer, see TASB policy FED (LEGAL).

# **Appoint Facilitators**

Districts are required to employ a truancy prevention facilitator or juvenile case manager to implement the district's TPMs and meet annually with a court case manager to discuss the measures' effectiveness. Districts may designate an existing employee, such as an attendance officer, to serve in this role. Tex. Educ. Code § 25.0915(d)- (e).

# **Adopt Truancy Prevention Measures**

Generally speaking, TPMs are programs or services that promote consistent school attendance while addressing the underlying risk factors that may lead to truancy. Tex. Educ. Code § 25.0915. At a minimum, Texas Education Code section 25.0915 requires a district to take at least one of the following actions as a TPM:

- Impose a behavior improvement plan. The district may impose a behavior improvement plan that must be signed by an employee of the school, that the district has made a good faith effort to have signed by the student and the student's parent or guardian, and that includes the elements described in Texas Education Code section 25.0915.
- Impose school-based community service. School-based community service might
  include trash pick-up, tutoring other students, or other forms of service to the school.
  Most districts generally assign a certain number of hours that the student must meet to
  satisfy the sanction.
- Refer the student to counseling, mediation, mentoring, teen court, or other in-school or out-of-school service aimed at addressing the truant behavior. If an issue is identified as preventing a student from attending school, appropriate district employees should determine whether there is any in-school or out-of-school service that can address the issue. For example, the district may offer parenting programs or meetings to ensure parents understand attendance requirements and have a plan to get students to school. The district could refer a student to counseling to deal with drug and alcohol issues or after-school tutoring to increase student engagement.

#### **BEST PRACTICES FOR TRUANCY PREVENTION**

TEA has created minimum standards for TPMs implemented by a district. TPMs, at a minimum, should identify the root cause of the student's unexcused absences and identify actions to address each cause. The measures should include maintaining ongoing communication with students and parents on the actions to be taken to improve attendance. The district should also establish reasonable timelines for completing the TPMs. For a student with a disability, the district should establish procedures to notify the admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee or the Section 504 committee of attendance issues. For a student receiving special education, a pattern of unexcused absences may be a reason to develop or revise a behavior improvement plan. Tex. Educ. Code § 29.005.

The Texas Administrative Code lists several best practices that schools should consider while implementing TPMs. 19 Tex. Admin. Code § 129.1045(a). School districts, by rule, are also required to consider other services offered to students, including an optional flexible school day program and evening and online alternatives; working with businesses that employ students to help students coordinate job and school responsibilities; and offering before-school, after-school, and/or Saturday prevention or intervention programs or services that implement best and promising practices. 19 Tex. Admin. Code § 129.1045(b).

**Relationships with community organizations.** Many districts already have established relationships with external organizations that have programs designed to promote consistent school attendance. Some commonly known organizations that can address truancy through mentoring programs or other types of partnerships include Communities in Schools and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

**Consider special circumstances.** If a school district determines that a student's truancy is the result of pregnancy, being in the state foster program, homelessness, or being the principal income earner for the student's family, the district is required to offer additional counseling to a student and may not refer the student to truancy court.

#### **PARENT LIABILITY**

Districts have the option of filing a complaint for criminal prosecution of a parent for contributing to a student's failure to attend school if the parent fails to require the student to attend school on 10 or more parts of days within a six-month period. A complaint against a student's parent can be made in the county, justice, or municipal court if the district provides evidence and meets the statute's other requirements. The offense of contributing to a student's failure to attend school is a misdemeanor, punishable by fine. Tex. Educ. Code § 25.093.

#### **STUDENT REFERRAL TO COURT**

When TPMs fail to solve the problem, referral to a truancy court that can impose civil (not criminal) consequences is an option for students between the ages of 12 and 18, unless the failure to attend school is the result of pregnancy, being in the foster care program, homelessness, or being the principal income earner for the student's family. A referral for 10 or more unexcused absences within 6 months must be made within 10 school days from the date of the student's 10th absence. A district may delay the referral if the truancy prevention measures are succeeding and the delay is in the student's best interest. Tex. Educ. Code §§ 25.0915, .0951.

When a district refers a student to truancy court, the district must provide a statement documenting that TPMs were applied but failed and specifying whether the student is eligible for or receives special education. The law requires a truancy court to dismiss a referral that fails to comply with the statutory requirements. In addition, it is an affirmative defense to an allegation of truancy that one of more of the absences that caused the student to be truant were involuntary or voluntary but due to abuse, as defined by the Texas Family Code. A student could also assert an affirmative defense for absences that should have been excused by the school or court. As such, documentation of the actions taken by the district are more important than ever. Tex. Educ. Code § 25.0915; Tex. Fam. Code § 65.003.

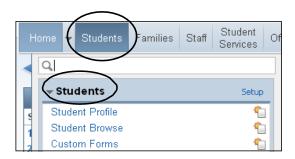
In recent years, Texas educators and lawmakers have demonstrated a strong commitment to reforming disciplinary practices that resulted in criminal consequences and could have the effect of further excluding students who were already at risk. Referring a student to court for failure to attend school should always be a district's last resort.

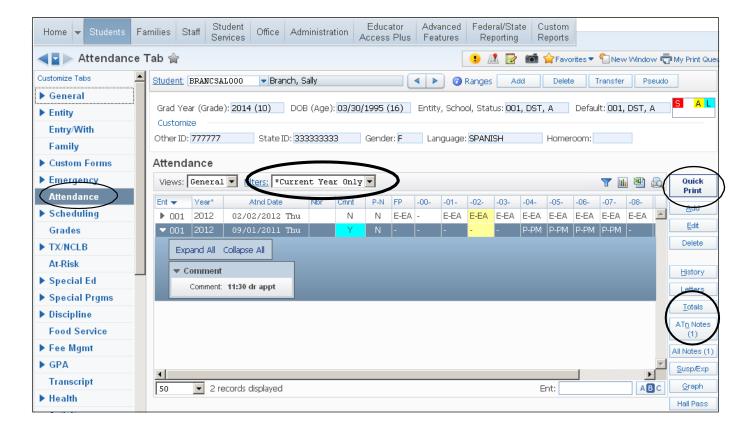
This document is provided for educational purposes and contains information to facilitate a general understanding of the law. References to judicial or other official proceedings are intended to be a fair and impartial account of public records, which may contain allegations that are not true. This publication is not an exhaustive treatment of the law, nor is it intended to substitute for the advice of an attorney. Consult your own attorney to apply these legal principles to specific fact situations.

Originally published August 2017. Updated March 2024.

# **ENTERING ATTENDANCE**

# Attendance Entry from Student Profile





Set Filter to display Current Year Only

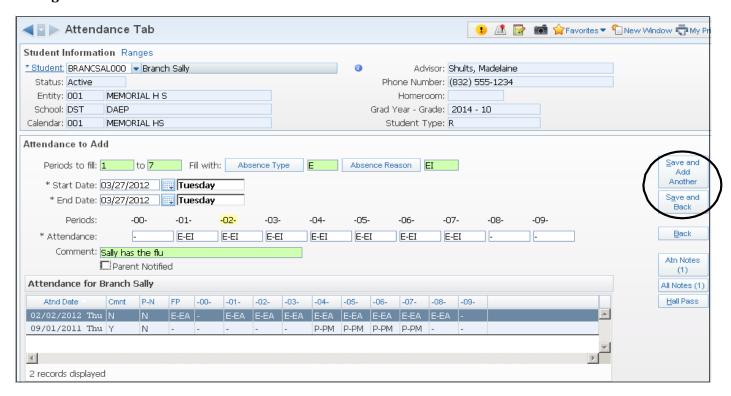
Click the Add button to enter absences for a student. Select an existing absence record and click the Edit button to change an absence type code with supporting documentation.

Expand () the absence record to view comments for that date. Note: The period that is designated as the funding period for that date will be highlighted.

Click the Totals button to view the total days in membership, total days present, total unexcused absences and total excused absences

Click Atn Notes button to enter a note regarding overall attendance for the student. The number in parenthesis indicates how many notes are on file for the student.

#### Adding an absence record:



Secondary campuses will have multiple periods of attendance to enter. Elementary campuses will have only one period to enter (period 02).

Be sure to use the Tab key to move through the screen so no information is omitted.

Periods to Fill: Enter the periods the student is to be marked absent. For elementary it will be just one period for daily attendance as indicated above. For secondary schools it can be from one to how ever many period ds the campus has classes assigned.

Absence Type: Select an Absence Type by clicking on the button and selecting the appropriate absence.

Absence Reason: Select the Absence Reason button to get the list of reasons and select the reason appropriate for the absence type (see chart at the beginning of this document).

Start and End dates: Enter the appropriate date range. It can be one day or a range of dates.

Attendance: The Absence Type and Absence Reason will default into these fields based on the information you have entered.

Comment: Enter any appropriate comment as needed. Do NOT use punctuation.

When complete, click the Save and Add another button (if additional entries need to be made) or click the Save and Back button to enter a single attendance record.

Note: Changing a reason does not change the type. You must have the correct absence type in order for the absence to be reported to PEIMS correctly.

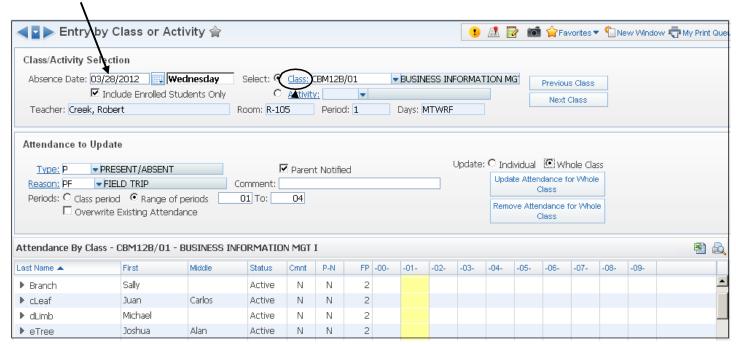
### **Attendance by Class/Activity**

Use this process when entering attendance for a substitute or if it is necessary to update an entire class. You could also



Complete the following information on the attendance screen:

Absence Date - verify it is for the correct date of attendance



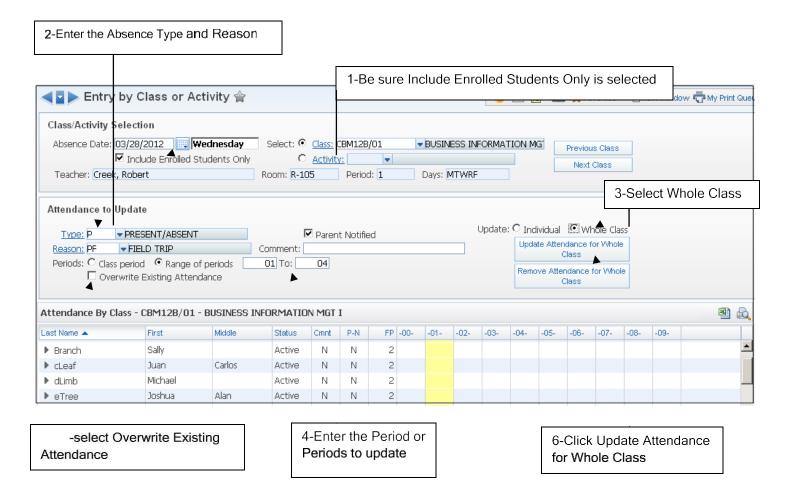
Select the class needed by clicking the Class link and selecting the class from the list.



**Note** You can search for a course by entering the course id in the field at the bottom right corner labeled "Code" or you can begin typing the course in the class field which will bring up a list from which to select.

## Complete the following information:

- 1. Select Include Enrolled Students Only
- 2. Enter the **Absence Type** and **REASON**
- **3**. Select **Whole Class** if entering attendance for a field trip. Select **Individual** if entering attendance taken by a substitute.
- 4. Select Class Period or Range of Periods to update
- 5. De-Select Overwrite Existing Attendance
- 6. Select Update Attendance for Whole Class.



**Note:** If certain students in the mass change need a different absence type and reason, go to the <u>Attendance by Student</u> module and make the change for the individual student.

# STEP BY STEP PROCESSES

Viewing all Students at the District Level - "000"



#### SAN FELIPE-DEL RIO CISD (000) Student Food Students Home amilies Staff Services Service Q ▼ Students - ST Setup - Emer Student Profile - PR Emerg 9 Student Browse - ST 9 9 Custom Forms - CF Data Mining - DM 9 Pseudo Approval - PA Reports - RE 9



#### Step 1

On the homepage of gradebook, ensure the Entity is set to (000).

#### Step 2

Select the Students tab located at the top of the page. Proceed with selecting *Student Profile-PR* when the drop down appears.

#### Step 3

Once on the student profile page, ensure you are under the Entry/With tab located to the left of the student data.



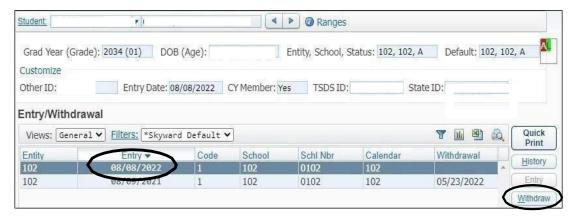
#### Step 4

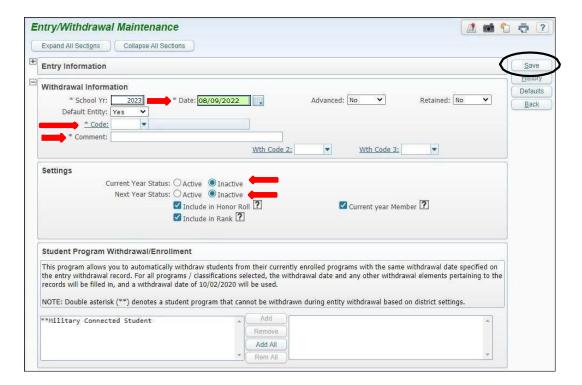
Enter Student Name Key/ or Other ID.

Student data will populate showing which school the student is located at in the District.

# Student Withdrawal - WS/ST/TB/EW/EW







#### Step 1

Enter the student name key or other ID.

## Step 2

Ensure you are under the Entry/With tab.

#### Step 3

Select the student's most current entry date.

## Step 4

Select the Withdraw button

#### Step 5

Verify thecorrect \*Date is listed (this will reflect as the student's withdrawaldate).

#### Step 6

Enter the correct W/D code.

# Step 7 Enter

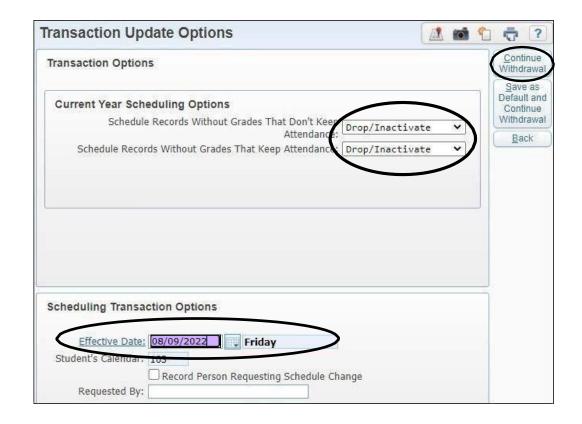
a W/D comment indicating the reason for withdrawal.

#### Step 8

Set the Current Year Status to Inactive & Next Year Status to Inactive.

# Step9

Save.



Step 10 Select Drop/Inactivate for both options listed.

Step 11 Verify the scheduling transaction effective date.

Step 12 Select Continue Withdrawal.



Step 13
The students
Entry/Withdrawal
record will now
reflect the
withdrawal.

# Generating Withdrawal Form – WS/SR/TX/RE/AT/SW



Step 1
Select Federal/State Reporting tab



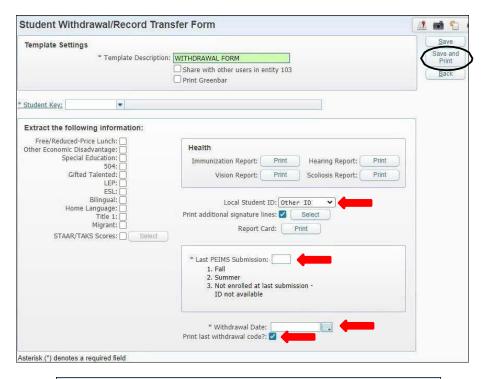
Step 2 Select Reports



Step 3
Select Student Withdrawal/Record
Transfer Form



Step 4 Select Add





# Step 5 Set Ranges in template to preference.

NOTE; Other ID, Last PEIMS Submission, Withdrawal date, and Print last withdrawal code must be included.

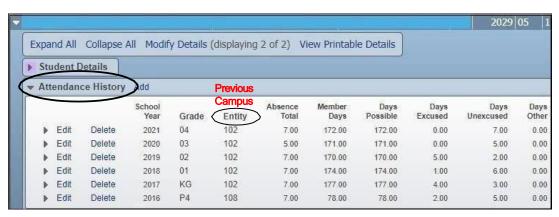
# Step 6 Save and Print

**Step 7**Print Withdrawal form from Print Queue.

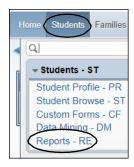
# Viewing Historical Attendance -

# Search for attendance from previous years

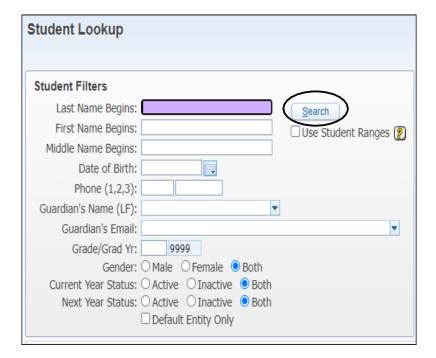




#### Search for attendance from previous campus current year







**Student Filters:**Must fill in as many filters possible,



Look for student then Search

