



ALPINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Becky McCutchen, Superintendent

704 W. Sul Ross Avenue
Alpine, Texas 79830
(432) 837-7700
FAX: (432) 837-7740

"Alpine ISD will provide our children with learning experiences to be responsible, productive, and successful citizens of an ever changing world."

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Dear Parent/Guardian and Student:

Alpine ISD hopes that everyone had an enjoyable summer. There are some important issues that Alpine ISD wants you to be aware of regarding student attendance and how the district will handle the issue of truancy.

What is Truancy?

Section 25.085 of the Texas Education Code states that a child who is required to attend school under this section shall attend school each school day for the entire period the program of instruction is provided, unless exempted by law. Individuals who begin the school year between the ages of 6 and 18, or those individuals **who voluntarily** enroll in a pre-kindergarten or a kindergarten program, or after their eighteenth birthday must be in attendance the entire time school is offered. Examples of unexcused absences include but may not be limited to; personal business, shopping, car trouble, non-medical appointments, Non-subpoena court appearances, missed bus, illness other than the immediate family, work or detained by train.

How will the Alpine Independent School District handle this issue?

Once a student receives three unexcused absences you will be contacted by a campus administrator or counselor and a warning letter will be sent home. It will be necessary that you contact the school to discuss the attendance issue with either a counselor or campus administrator. If the unexcused absences continue, and a student misses 10 or more days in a six month period during the same school year, without a valid excuse, the student is truant. The student can and will be prosecuted for **Failure to Attend School (TEC 25.094)**. The parent/guardian of a truant student can also be prosecuted after receiving a warning for **Parent Contributing to Non Attendance (TEC 25.093)**. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to take the necessary measures to make sure that the student is attending school regularly.

Parents are also responsible for notifying the school the day of the absence. If the parent/guardian does not contact the school, they are responsible for making sure that an excuse for the absence is submitted, **in writing** to the student's attendance office. This must be done the day the student returns to school from the absence. This will ensure that an absence does not remain as unexcused. Also, a student must have a legitimate excuse for

arriving late or leaving early from school. The school attendance office must be notified, in writing, with a valid reason for the tardy or early dismissal. If a student becomes truant, the parent/guardian will be notified about the attendance issue and will be required to attend future meetings regarding the truant student. It is also the parent/guardian's responsibility to contact the school immediately if you feel there has been an error in your student's attendance.

The Alpine Independent School District wants every student in this district to be successful. You can help your student by encouraging them to attend school regularly.

Best wishes for a successful school year.

Sincerely,



Becky McCutchen
Superintendent of Schools