

Lexington Four

Truancy Information for Parents



A missed school day is a lost opportunity for students to learn. A recent study looking at young children found that absenteeism in kindergarten was associated with negative first grade outcomes such as greater absenteeism in subsequent years and lower achievement in reading, math, and general knowledge. Poor attendance has serious implications for later outcomes as well. High school dropouts have been found to exhibit a history of negative behaviors, including high levels of absenteeism throughout their childhood, at higher rates than high school graduates. While some absences may be unavoidable, every school day counts.

Parent Notes/Excuses

- Students who are absent from school must provide a written excuse within **three school-days** of returning to school for each absence.
- Absences without an excuse or parent note are automatically classified as unlawful (marked unexcused in PowerSchool).
- Parent notes for illness will be accepted as documentation of a lawful absence for **no more than 10 days** each school year unless otherwise approved by the principal. Additional absences due to illness will require a medical excuse to be considered lawful.

Medical Excuses

- Medical excuses are accepted as documentation of an excused absence.
- Medical excuses must be submitted within **three school-days** of the student's return to school.
- Excuses must be written and may be submitted electronically or by fax directly from the medical or dental practitioner.
- A phone call from the practitioner **cannot** replace the written excuse.

Medical excuses must be on physician letterhead and include:

- the date the excuse is written.
- date of student's covered absence(s).
- telephone number where the practitioner may be reached.
- the practitioner or their designee's signature.

Truancy

Students who accrue five (5) unlawful absences in a school year are considered Truant. Schools will notify the family via letter or phone call and may schedule a conference to establish an Attendance Improvement Plan (AIP).

Additional unexcused absences or failure to adhere to the AIP will result in a referral to the District Attendance Officer and/or Family Court.

We encourage parents to contact their child's school counselors for assistance if there are hardships which prevent their child from attending school.

More information regarding district absence policies and procedures may be found at <http://www.lexington4.net/handbook>.