



Crittenden County Schools

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

WHY GOOD ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success—both in school and in life. When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child get better grades, develop healthy life habits, and have a better chance of graduating from high school ready for a productive future.

IT'S THE LAW

KRS 159.010, KY's Compulsory Attendance Law, requires that all children between the ages of 6 and 18 attend school.

IF YOUR CHILD MUST BE ABSENT

Children occasionally get sick and may need to miss school. Students enrolled in Crittenden County Schools for the full year are allowed up to 5 absence events to be excused with a parent note. Unless a different type of excuse is presented, the first 5 absences will be coded as parent notes. Students who enroll after October 1 will have a prorated number of parent notes as shown in the chart if an attendance record is not received from the prior school.

ENROLL DATE	# OF PARENT NOTES
Aug-Sept	5
Oct-Nov	4
Dec-Jan	3
Feb-Mar	2
Apr-May	1

DOCTOR NOTES

Doctor notes are limited to 10 for the year. In special circumstances, or as deemed necessary by a chronic health situation, additional days may be granted after an RX10 form is completed by your family physician with medical documentation and principal approval.

HOME HOSPITAL

If a student is anticipated to be absent for more than 5 days due to a surgery, accident, etc., parents are encouraged to complete a Home Hospital application to receive instruction at home twice a week.

TRUANCY

- A student who accumulates either 3 unexcused absences or tardies is truant. A student who has been reported as truant 2 times is a Habitual Truant under KRS 159.150. Parents of habitually truant students may be charged with Educational Neglect.

WHAT IF I HAVE TO GO TO COURT?

- Most educational neglect charges filed by the school system will result in your child being court-ordered to school, which means that only RX-10 forms signed by a physician on the first day the student is absent will be accepted as a valid excuse.
- RX 10 forms also must be used for by court-ordered students for appointments such as dental, orthodontist, optometrist, and vaccination that state the time the student arrived and left the office. The student will be excused only for the portion of the day needed for the appointment and travel time.

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is widely defined as missing 10 percent or more of school days in a school year for any reason, including excused and unexcused absences. This can translate into missing **17 or more** days per year or 2 days per month.

Students who are chronically absent in preschool, kindergarten, and first grade are much less likely to read at grade level by third grade—which would make them **4 times** more likely to drop out of high school than proficient readers.

Students who have missed 10% or more of the school year will be excluded from extra-curricular and non-essential school activities unless exempted by the district's attendance committee. Privileges will be reinstated once attendance reaches 90% or better.

It starts early. More than **10 percent** of kindergartners and first graders are chronically absent.

A student who is chronically absent any year between grades 8 and 12 is more than **7 times** more likely to drop out.

On average, a college graduate is likely to live about **9 years** longer than someone who has not completed high school.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

- Try to schedule appointments, such as those for dental, optometrist, orthodontist, and vaccination, after school or during scheduled school breaks. If you must schedule during the school day, please make the appointment as early or as late as possible so your student can be at school the majority of the day.
- ALWAYS send written and signed documentation any time your child is tardy, checks out early, or is absent from school.
- Documentation is due on the day the student returns to school. There is a 5-day grace period to submit, but after 5 days, it will be counted as unexcused.

MISS A DAY, MISS A LOT!

Questions? Please contact Diana Lusby at 270.965.3525 or diana.lusby@crittenden.kyschools.us