

Students are subject to compulsory school attendance and truancy laws as required by the statutes of the state of Kansas.

I. Compulsory School Attendance

The Board of Education believes that attendance at school is a key factor in student achievement. Therefore, any absence from school represents an educational loss to the student and a waste of the school district's valuable educational resources. Parents are obligated by law to require their children ages seven (7) to eighteen (18) to continuously attend school and are expected by the Topeka Public Schools to encourage and assist their students to successfully complete their educational responsibilities. Students are expected to regularly attend school, participate and learn. Staff is expected to work with students and their parents to ensure that accurate attendance records are kept and that open lines of communication regarding attendance are maintained. Each school shall establish its attendance rules, publish them and periodically review and revise them, as needed. Principals, or their designees, shall have authority to grant excuses for absences. Unexcused absences and tardies shall be dealt with as matters of student discipline, pursuant to Policy No. 8125.

Excused absences may be granted to a student by the principal upon written request of the parent(s) or lawful custodian and after the principal has determined that the absence is in the best interest of the student. Examples of excused absences include but are not limited to: medical, dental, or psychological treatment; required court appearances; family emergency; illness that could be verified by medical authorities; or the student's participation in events appropriately related to his or her education.

II. Truancy

A student is inexcusably absent from school for purposes of reporting truancy, as required by law, if s/he is absent from all or a significant part of a day without a valid excuse acceptable to the school employee designated by the Board of Education to have responsibility for the school attendance of such student. A "significant part of a day" is defined as being absent without a valid excuse for more than 50% of the school day.

III. Additional Attendance Requirements

Students may be required by their principal or his/her designee or by the superintendent to attend school beyond or in addition to their regular school day and/or beyond or in addition to their regular school year, for the purpose of:

- A. Remedial education, including night school and summer school; or**
- B. Discipline, including detention before or after regular school hours, on weekends and during summer months.**

Any unexcused absence from additional school hours or school days required pursuant to this policy shall be considered truancy and shall be reported as required by state law.