

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Attendance

Santee School District strictly enforces state attendance laws. Our emphasis is on preventing truancy by providing all pupils with appropriate and qualitative education programs.

State Law permits students to be absent for justifiable reasons, which include, but are not limited to:

- Illness, including quarantine
- Religious holidays
- Medical/dental appointments
- Funerals for an immediate family member

However, when a student is frequently absent or tardy from school due to illness, the school may request that the parent/guardian provide written verification of the illness from the family physician.

If we are not aware of a medical basis for your child's absence, the school will notify you by letter beginning with the 10th excused or unexcused absence or tardy. All absences need to be excused by note or phone call within 72 hours. Should the absences/tardies total 15, the Vice Principal/designee will contact you to conference regarding the concern. If these are unexcused absences or tardies the school will begin notifying you of truancy after 3 occurrences. After receiving 3 letters the Attendance Specialist will schedule a meeting with you to resolve the attendance issue or develop a SART (School Attendance Review Team) contract. This contract will be valid for the current school year. After being placed on a SART contract, the parent will no longer be able to excuse their child's absences and will be required to have a note from their primary physician or bring their child to school to be evaluated by the health clerk who will determine if the student is well enough to attend school. If any additional unexcused absences or tardies of more than 30 minutes occur, the student and parent/guardian will be referred to the SARB (Student Attendance Review Board) which is an extension of the Superior Court, held at the Santee Sheriff's Station.

If your student has to be absent for 5 consecutive days or more, please obtain an **Independent Study Contract** from the school attendance clerk. Whenever possible, a minimum of 3 days advance notice is required to allow time for teachers and the school office to process paperwork. Upon returning to school your student is required to have ALL work completed for full credit and to have those absences excused.

If your student is out or is going to be out for a severe medical condition (not contagious), which inhibits his/her ability to attend school, please contact the school to see if your student qualifies for a home tutor. You will be asked to have documentation from the attending physician that supports the medical condition and the date when your student can return to school. Your student will get credit for the work completed and it will not count against his/her attendance.

If your child has a chronic illness, please have your child's doctor complete the Chronic Illness Verification Form that is available from the health clerk in your school's office.

Parent/guardians are encouraged to schedule medical/dental appointments during non-school hours. If your student has an appointment during school hours, please bring your student to school promptly after your appointment. You may be requested to have a note from your doctor indicating the visit.