



# STUDENTS MUST ATTEND SCHOOL EVERYDAY... IT'S THE LAW!

*Any child at the age of 6 by Sept.1 must attend school until his or her 19th birthday.*

*Any child, who is younger than 6, once enrolled, is also subject to the Compulsory Attendance Laws.*

## **WHEN IS THE STUDENT IN VIOLATION OF THE COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW?**

The student is in violation of the Compulsory Attendance Law if a student fails to attend school on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year without a valid excuse (unexcused absences) as stated by district or state policies.

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT IS IN VIOLATION OF THE COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW?**

- Parents are subject to prosecution for parent contributing to non-attendance. An offense under this section (Sect. 25.093) is a Class C misdemeanor...(up to \$500 fine per offense)
- Students are subject to truancy prevention measures under **Section 25.0915** of the Texas Education Code.
- Students are subject to a referral to a truancy court for truant conduct under **Section 65.003** of the Family Code.

## **WHAT IS AN "UNEXCUSED" ABSENCE?**

An unexcused absence is an absence that does not fall within the state or district guidelines. An unexcused absence occurs when the parent cannot produce any document that explains the absence or the parent presents documentation that doesn't meet district criteria. Recorded unexcused absences will remain as "unexcused" if acceptable documentation is not received within five school days after student's return to school.

## **ATTENDANCE FOR CREDIT (SECONDARY)/PROMOTION (ELEMENTARY)**

In addition to compulsory attendance laws, the *Texas Education Code (TEC)* also addresses attendance for credit. Except as provided by **TEC 25.092**, unless the student is in attendance for at least 90 percent of the days a class is offered, he/she may not be given credit for the class or be considered for grade promotion. The statute does not take into consideration whether the absences are excused or unexcused. If a student's attendance fall below the 90 percent threshold in one or more classes, the parent must request (in writing) that an attendance review committee meet to determine alternative learning activities for the student to complete in order to gain credit or be promoted to the next grade. **TEC 25.092 and Board Policy FEC (LOCAL)**

**Refer to the Hays CISD Student/Parent Handbook for District Guidelines**

**[www.hayscisd.net](http://www.hayscisd.net)**

**CALL YOUR SCHOOL'S ATTENDANCE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR STUDENT'S ABSENCES**