

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS

Louisiana State Law mandates compulsory school attendance and students are expected to be in attendance every school day scheduled by the local school board until their eighteenth (18th) birthday.

All excuses, including original doctor/dentist verification for a student's absence(s), must be presented to the school within five (5) days of the student's return to school to be considered for extenuating circumstances. All doctor's/ parent's notes presented after this time will NOT be considered. Please be aware that a parental excuse note allows students to make up work missed and is marked excused on the report card; however, the student absence is still calculated in the number of days per year a student is allowed to miss per LDOE policy.

What are Compulsory School Attendance Ages?

Every child in the state is required by state law to attend public or private school from the child's fifth (5th) birthday until his/her eighteenth (18th) birthday, unless the child graduates prior to his/her 18th birthday. Any child below the age of five (5) who legally enrolls in school shall also be required to adhere to school attendance regulations.

What are the current regulations regarding school attendance for Grant Parish Schools?

Our Grant Parish School Calendar this year accounts for **171** student days scheduled for 385 instructional minutes per day. **The state of Louisiana requires 63,720 instructional minutes a year.**

- A. In order to be eligible to receive grades, Elementary students (K-8), shall not exceed 10 days per year of absences.
- B. In order to be eligible to receive grades/credits, high school students (9-12), shall not exceed 5 days per semester of absences in whole credit courses and 3 days in ½ credit courses.
 - a. High School students (9-12) shall be kept on a per period basis.
 - b. For High schools counting attendance by periods, a student shall be present for more than 50% of a period to be counted as being in attendance for that class period.
- C. In regards to tardiness: Accumulated tardiness affects absences.
- D. Each school shall identify students at their school who could be considered to be high risk for absenteeism. Each teacher of high-risk students should be notified that appropriate intervention strategies will be planned and implemented. The principal or their representative should make an effort to verbally contact every student who has been absent for three (3) consecutive unexcused days or more in order to ascertain why the student is absent and to explain School Board attendance policy and procedure to the parents/guardians.
- E. A notification to the parent/guardians to inform them of their student's unexcused absences from school or classes will occur at intervals of three (3), five (5), eight (8), and ten (10) nonconsecutive days and will also reconfirm the parish's attendance regulations. The only exceptions will be Grant, Georgetown, and Montgomery High Schools, which operate on a 4x4 block scheduling system or modified block schedule. Notifications to parents at these schools will occur at intervals two (2) four (4) and, five (5) nonconsecutive days. Other notifications to parents will be handled through verbal contacts and documentation on student progress reports and report cards.
- F. Attendance for students in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade will be calculated as half and whole day attendance and will be reported to the state as such.
- G. In accordance with **R.S. 12:221:E**, A child between the ages of seventeen (17) and eighteen (18) may withdraw from school prior to graduation with the written consent of his parent, tutor, or legal guardian.
- H. A student's attendance for the year is cumulative and follows a student who transfers between schools during the school year.