

# FCS Attendance

[Click here for the detailed Board Policy on Attendance](#)



## School Policies

### Excusable Absences:

- Illness
- Immediate family death/illness
- Court order
- Religious holidays
- Scheduled medical, dental, eye appt.
- Registering to vote/voting
- Visiting with military parent/guardian



## Chronic Absenteeism

20% of school missed (36 days) - **SEVERE**

10% of school missed (18 days) - **MODERATE**

5% of school missed (9 days) - **AT RISK**

### IMPORTANT

#### To ensure that the absence is marked excused:

Parent/guardian must submit a **written notice** stating the specific date(s) and reason(s) for the absence **within five days** of the absence.

Family vacations or extended trips are **not** excusable absences.

## The Facts

- 1 in 3 students are chronically absent.
- Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the year.
- Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of 3rd grade.
- By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
- Missing 10% of school negatively affects academic performance.

### Communication:

- After **3-4 unexcused** absences, the teacher will contact home.
- After **5 unexcused absences**, an attendance letter will be sent home.
- After **8 unexcused absences**, the school social worker will send an attendance letter & become involved.

## What Parents Can Do

- ✓ Develop a regular bedtime & morning routine.
- ✓ Lay clothes out & pack backpack the night before.
- ✓ Arrange appointments outside of school day.
- ✓ Avoid extended trips/vacations during school - Review the FCS 2023-24 School Calendar.
- ✓ Contact your school counselor or administrator if your child seems anxious or resistant to go to school.
- ✓ Check your child's attendance often. Make sure you submit absence notes within 5 days.
- ✓ Stress the importance of attendance with your child. Only miss school if absolutely necessary.

## Additional Resources

Is your child missing school due to anxiety?

Why attendance matters in early grades

Preschool/Kindergarten Fact Sheet

Elementary Fact Sheet

Middle/Secondary Fact Sheet

*Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow!*