

Dear Keller ISD Parents/Guardians,

We are excited for the start of a great year in Keller ISD. Prior to the start of the 2017-2018 school year, we would like to share some important information pertaining to student attendance and truancy.

Attendance has an impact on a student's academic success. Of the students not passing the English II End-of-Course assessment, 86 percent of the students had six or more absences for the 2016-2017 school year. In fourth grade, 23 percent of students with six or more absences did not pass the STAAR Reading exam. Attendance can impact academic success.

During the 2016-2107 school year, students averaged seven absences. We believe being absent five or fewer days has a significant impact on student learning outcomes. We need your help eliminating unnecessary absences and ensuring your child is present. Avoid scheduling optional family travel during the school year, ensure immunizations are up to date, utilize busing services to assist in consistent transportation to school, and utilize KISD's Telemedicine services for early dedication of illnesses. Transportation information and information on immunizations, health services, and a list of campuses offering telemedicine services is available at www.KellerISD.net/health.

Ensuring your student is absent five or fewer days during the 2017-2018 school year also helps your family avoid truancy charges. The Texas Education Code, Section 25.085, states that a child is required to attend school each school day for the entire period the program of instruction is provided, unless exempted by law. A student is in violation of truancy when the student is absent 10 or more days, or parts of days, within a six-month period in the same school year, or when a student is absent three or more days, or parts of days, within a four-week period.

If a student is in violation of truancy, the parent/guardian may be subject to criminal prosecution, and the student is subject to referral to a truancy court for truant conduct. Keller ISD will enforce the Texas compulsory attendance laws as follows:

- Campus automated phone calls to parents and guardians will be made notifying you when your student has been marked absent. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to provide current contact information to the school.
- Students will be issued a warning notice when the student has absences without an excuse on three days or parts of days in a four-week period or five or more days or parts of days during the school year. Campuses will also request a conference with the student and parent/guardian to implement truancy prevention measures.
- A student with five or more days or parts of days during the school year will be required to participate in the Truancy Intervention Program (TIP). The TIP is an information-based intervention program offered to parents and students as an intervention measure before a student receives a referral to truancy court.
- If a student fails to attend school without an excuse for 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, students 12 and older, may be referred to the prosecutor of the truancy court of Tarrant County. The court can also file a

criminal complaint against parents or guardians who contribute to the nonattendance of his/her student, regardless of the student's age.

Your family is an important part of KISD, and your student's attendance is an important piece to their overall success. Take one simple step towards ensuring your child is successful this school year, by ensuring your child is present.

Sincerely,

Dr. Leanne Shivers
Keller ISD Executive Director of Student Services