

**A student is considered truant after five or more unexcused absences or 18 excessive absences (excused or unexcused).**

**A.R.S. 15-802/15-803**



### **ARIZONA TRUANCY LAWS**

- Children between the ages of 6 and 16 are required to attend school regularly.
- Children are allowed to miss 10% of the school year (excused or unexcused absences).
- Missing more than 10% (18 days) is breaking the law.
- Five (5) unexcused absences is breaking the law.

#### **Possible Consequences for Parents:**

- Criminal offense (Misdemeanor 3) on parent's record
  - Up to 30 days in jail
  - Up to \$1,000 fine
  - Required parenting class

#### **Possible Consequences for Youth:**

- Citation for truancy on youth's juvenile record
- CUTS hearing with a probation officer:
  - Community service hours
  - Educational classes
  - After school tutoring
  - Writing assignments
  - Counseling

## **EDUCATION AND INCOME**

### **Median Weekly Earnings**

Doctoral Degree.....	\$2,278
Professional Degree.....	\$2,363
Master's Degree.....	\$1,840
Bachelor's Degree.....	\$1,543
Associate Degree.....	\$1,099
High School Diploma.....	\$930
Less than a High School Diploma...	\$738



**When students improve their attendance, their academic prospects and chances of graduating high school also improve.**

**The WESD Truancy Department aims to improve student attendance by addressing barriers with families. The District may collaborate with local agencies like the City of Phoenix Prosecutors Office and the Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department to lower truancy rates.**



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***A Parent/Student  
Guide to Success  
in Education.***

**Attendance gaps  
lead to achievement gaps**



**CHRONIC ABSENCES**  
18 or more days



**WARNING SIGNS**  
10 to 17 days



**GOOD ATTENDANCE**  
9 or fewer absences

## MAKE SCHOOL A PRIORITY

- Encourage your student to maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Do not enable your child by allowing unexcused absences. Keep in mind, complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk with teachers, school social workers, and other parents for advice.
- Arrive 10 minutes before the first bell to ensure your student is seated when class starts. Being late can disrupt the entire class.
- Develop a backup plan for getting to school in case of an unexpected issue.
- Try to schedule non-urgent related medical appointments and extended trips when school is not in session.
- Ask for help when you need it. School staff or community agencies may be able to help with barriers preventing your child from attending school.

# BE PRESENT, BE POWERFUL.

## Recommended Amount of Sleep for Children

Ages 6-12: 9-12 hours/night  Ages 13-18: 8-10 hours/night

*Attend today,  
Achieve tomorrow!*

## Communicate with the School

State law mandates that the school record reasons for all student absences. Therefore, when a student is absent, it is necessary for the parent to call the school on or before the day of the absence in order to advise the school office as to the reason for the absence. All absences not verified on or before the day of the absence by parental or administrative authorization will remain unexcused.

## ATTENDANCE IMPACTS

### ACADEMICS

Regular school attendance is directly linked to academic success. A child who misses a day of school misses a day of learning. Missing 18 or more school days per year or just two days a month is a primary cause of lower academic achievement, even when the absences are "excused" or understandable.

### SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL GROWTH

School attendance provides opportunities for social and emotional growth. It gives students the opportunity to develop positive relationships with others through social experiences and lessons.

### FUTURE GOALS

Attendance gaps lead to achievement gaps. Research shows that by sixth grade, high absenteeism is one of the signs that a student may drop out of high school. Research also shows that by ninth grade, high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than eighth-grade test scores.