

RECORDS

A district shall maintain records to reflect the average daily attendance (ADA) for the allocation of Foundation School Program (FSP) funds and other funds allocated by the Commissioner. The district must maintain records and make reports concerning student attendance and participation in special programs as required by the Commissioner. The superintendent, principals, and teachers are responsible to the board and the state to maintain accurate, current attendance records. *19 TAC 129.21(a), (e)*

Districts shall use the student attendance accounting standards established by the Commissioner to maintain records and make reports on student attendance and student participation in special programs. The official standards are described in TEA's *Student Attendance Accounting Handbook*. *19 TAC 129.1025*

A superintendent is responsible for the safekeeping of all attendance records and reports. A superintendent may determine whether the properly certified attendance records or reports for the school year are to be stored in the central office, on the respective school campuses of a district, or at another secure location. Regardless of where such records are filed or stored, they must be readily available for audit by TEA. *19 TAC 129.21(d)*

MINIMUM
ENROLLMENT

A student must be enrolled for at least two hours of instruction to be considered in membership for one half day, and for at least four hours of instruction to be considered in membership for one full day.

FULL-DAY
STUDENTS

Students enrolled on a full-day basis may earn one full day of attendance each school day.

HALF-DAY
STUDENTS

Students enrolled on a half-day basis may earn only one half day attendance each school day. Attendance is determined for these pupils by recording absences in a period during the half day they are scheduled to be present.

ALTERNATIVE
ATTENDANCE
ACCOUNTING
PROGRAM

Students who are enrolled in and participating in an alternative attendance accounting program approved by the Commissioner shall earn attendance according to the statutory and rule provisions applicable to that program.

ATTENDANCE FOR
STATE FUNDING
PURPOSES

Attendance for all grades shall be determined by the absences recorded in the second or fifth instructional hour of the day, unless the board adopts a policy, or delegates to the superintendent the authority to establish procedures for recording absences in an alternative hour, or unless the students for which attendance is being taken are enrolled in and participating in a Commissioner-approved alternative attendance accounting program.

The established period in which absences are recorded may not be changed during the school year.

Students absent during the daily period selected by a district for taking attendance shall be counted absent for the entire day, unless the students are enrolled in and participating in a Commissioner-approved alternative attendance accounting program. Students present at the time attendance is taken shall be counted present for the entire day, unless the students are enrolled in and participating in a Commissioner-approved alternative attendance accounting program.

19 TAC 129.21(g)–(h)

A student in a disciplinary alternative education program shall be counted in computing the average daily attendance of students in a district for the student's time in actual attendance in the program.
Education Code 37.008(f)

EXCEPTIONS

A student not actually on campus when attendance is taken may be considered in attendance for FSP purposes if:

BOARD-
APPROVED
ACTIVITIES

1. The student is participating in a board-approved activity under the direction of a member of a district's professional staff, or an adjunct staff member who has a bachelor's degree and is eligible for participation in TRS. [See FM]

MENTORSHIPS

2. The student is participating in a mentorship approved by district personnel to serve as one or more of the advanced measures needed to complete the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program outlined in 19 Administrative Code Chapter 74.

RELIGIOUS HOLY
DAYS

3. The student is observing religious holy days, including days of travel to or from a site where the student will observe holy days. A student who is observing holy days is allowed up to one day of excused travel for traveling to the site where the student will observe the holy days and up to one day of excused travel for traveling from that site. [See FEA]

COURT
APPEARANCE

4. The student is attending a required court appearance, including travel for that purpose. A student who is attending a required court appearance is allowed up to one day of excused travel for traveling to the site where the student will attend the required court appearance and up to one day of excused travel for traveling from that site. [See FEA]

CITIZENSHIP
PROCEEDINGS

5. The student is appearing at a governmental office to complete paperwork required in connection with the student's application for United States citizenship. A student who is appearing

- at a governmental office to complete such paperwork is allowed up to one day of excused travel for traveling to the site where the student will complete the paperwork and up to one day of excused travel for traveling from that site. [See FEA]
6. The student is taking part in a United States naturalization oath ceremony. A student who is taking part in such a ceremony is allowed up to one day of excused travel for traveling to the site where the student will take part in the ceremony and up to one day of excused travel for traveling from that site. [See FEA]
- ELECTION CLERKS 7. The student is serving as an election clerk. A student who is serving as an election clerk is allowed up to one day of excused travel for traveling to the site where the student will serve as an election clerk and up to one day of excused travel for traveling from that site. [See FEA]
- EARLY VOTING CLERKS 8. The student is serving as a student early voting clerk in an election. A district may excuse a student for serving as an early voting clerk for a maximum of two days in a school year. [See FEA]
- CHILDREN IN CONSERVATORSHIP OF DFPS 9. The student is in the conservatorship of DFPS, and is participating, as determined and documented by DFPS, in an activity ordered by a court under Family Code Chapter 262 or 263, provided that it is not practicable to schedule the participation outside of school hours, or required under a service plan under Family Code Chapter 263, Subchapter B. [See FEA]
- HEALTH-CARE APPOINTMENTS 10. The student is temporarily absent as a result of a documented appointment with a health-care professional for the student or the student's child during regular school hours, if the student commences classes or returns to school on the same day of the appointment. The appointment should be supported by a document such as a note from the health-care professional. "Temporary absence" includes the temporary absence of a student diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder on the day of the student's appointment with a health-care practitioner to receive a generally recognized service for persons with autism spectrum disorder, including applied behavioral analysis, speech therapy, and occupational therapy. [See FEA]
- HIGHER EDUCATION VISITS 11. The student is visiting an institution of higher education accredited by a generally recognized accrediting organization during the student's junior and senior years of high school for the purpose of determining the student's interest in attending the institution of higher education, provided that:

- a. The district may not excuse for this purpose more than two days during the student's junior year and two days during the student's senior year; and
 - b. The district adopts:
 - (1) A policy to determine when an absence will be excused for this purpose; and
 - (2) A procedure to verify the student's visit at the institution of higher education. [See FEA]
- DROPOUT RECOVERY EDUCATION PROGRAM
12. The student is in attendance at a dropout recovery education program, including a program operated by a public junior college under Education Code 29.402. [See GNC]
- TAPS AT MILITARY FUNERAL
13. The student is sounding "Taps" at a military honors funeral held in this state for a deceased veteran, provided that the student is enrolled in grade 6 or higher.
- OFF-CAMPUS INSTRUCTION
14. The student's absence is permitted by other conditions related to off-campus instruction described in the *Student Attendance Accounting Handbook*.
- MILITARY DEPENDENTS
15. The student's parent, stepparent, or legal guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from continuous deployment of at least four months outside the locality where the parent, stepparent, or guardian regularly resides, to visit with the student's parent, stepparent, or guardian. A district may not excuse a student under this provision more than five days in a school year. An excused absence under this provision must be taken not earlier than the 60th day before the date of deployment or not later than the 30th day after the date of return from deployment.

Education Code 25.087, 29.081(e); 19 TAC 129.21(i)-(k)

DISASTERS

The Commissioner shall adjust the average daily attendance of a district all or part of which is located in an area declared a disaster area by the governor under Government Code Chapter 418 if the district experiences a decline in average daily attendance that is reasonably attributable to the impact of the disaster.

The Commissioner shall make the adjustment required by this section for the two-year period following the date of the governor's initial proclamation or executive order declaring the state of disaster.

Education Code 42.0051

PARENTAL CONSENT
TO LEAVE CAMPUS

Before a district may count a student in attendance under this section or in attendance when the student was allowed to leave campus during any part of the school day, the board shall adopt a policy, or delegate to the superintendent the authority to establish procedures, addressing parental consent for a student to leave campus and the district must distribute the policy or procedures to staff and to all parents of students in the district. *19 TAC 129.21(l)*