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DR. KANDACE BETHEA
Superintendent

Dear Parent/Guardian:

According to the United States Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR), an absent student is one who misses 50 percent of the instructional day for any reason and regardless of whether the absence is excused or unexcused. In other words, students must attend class for at least half of the instructional day to be considered present for that day.

Students who are enrolled in the same school for an entire academic year and miss 18 or more days (10 percent) will be considered chronically absent. Chronic absenteeism is not the same as truancy.

Chronic Absenteeism	Truancy
<p>Chronically absent: Any student in grade K-12 who misses 50 percent or more of the instructional day for any reason for 10 percent (or more) of the enrollment period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All types of absences contribute to chronic absenteeism:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Excused Absences– Unexcused Absences– Suspensions• A student is absent if he or she is not physically on school grounds and is not participating in instruction or instruction-related activities at an approved off-grounds location for the school day.	<p>Truant: A student between the ages 6–17 who has accumulated unexcused absences on three consecutive days or has accumulated a total of five or more unexcused absences during the academic year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only full-day unexcused absences contribute to truancy.• Excused absences and suspensions do not affect truancy

We know that when students miss too much school—regardless of the reason—it can cause them to fall behind academically. We do not want your child to fall behind in school and get discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time.

Sincerely,

Kandace Bethea, Ph. D
Superintendent