

## Collaborative Agencies

Horry County Schools

Horry County Family Court

Department Of Juvenile Justice

Horry County Juvenile  
Solicitor's Office

Department of Social Services

Department of Mental Health



## STUDENT ATTENDANCE

## Promotion/Retention Policy

Promotion/Retention policies are separate from Truancy regulations.

To be promoted to the next grade or receive credit for high school courses, students may not be absent from school or class for more than 10 days for year-long courses or 5 days for semester courses.

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*Horry County Schools  
Student Attendance  
PO Box 260005  
335 Four Mile Road  
Conway, SC 29527*

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, color, disabilities, religion, national origin, military status, immigrant status or English-speaking status.

843-488-6838  
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# LAWFUL & UNLAWFUL ABSENCES

## **Lawful absences include but are not limited to:**

- Students who are ill and whose attendance in school would endanger their health or the health of others.
- Students in whose immediate family there is a serious illness or death.
- Students who are absent for recognized religious holidays of their faith.
- Prearranged absences for other reasons and/or extreme hardships at the discretion of the principal.

## **Unlawful absences include but are not limited to:**

- Students who are willfully absent from school without the knowledge of their parent.
- Students who are absent from school without acceptable cause with the knowledge of their parent.



# TRUANCY

The State Board of Education recognizes that truancy is primarily an educational issue and that all reasonable, educationally sound, corrective actions should be undertaken by the school district prior to resorting to the juvenile justice system.

## **Truant**

A child ages 5 to 17 years meets the definition of a truant when the child has three (3) consecutive or five (5) total absences, days tardy, or early releases unless the absences, days tardy, or early releases are excused by a medical doctor's written statement, proof of bereavement, or principal's approval.

## **Habitual Truant**

A "habitual" truant is a child, ages 12 to 17 years who fails to comply with the intervention plan developed by the school, the child, and the parent(s) or guardian(s) and who accumulates two or more additional unlawful absences, days tardy, and/or early releases.

## **Chronic Truant**

A "Chronic" truant is a child ages 12 to 17 years who has been through the school intervention process, has reached the level of a "habitual" truant, has been referred to Family Court and placed on an order to attend school, and continues to accumulate unlawful absences.

# ATTENDANCE INTERVENTION PLANS

*When a child is determined to be truant, school officials will make every reasonable effort to meet with the parent(s) or guardian(s) to identify reasons for the student's continued absence. These efforts may include telephone calls and home visits, both during and after normal business hours, as well as written messages and e-mail. School officials must develop a written "intervention plan" to address the student's continued absence in conjunction with the student and parent(s) or guardian(s).*

*It is the goal of Horry County Schools that each child succeeds academically. Regular school attendance gives children a solid foundation for a successful future.*

