

Ruidoso Municipal School District Attendance Policy

The Ruidoso School District is committed to excellence in education. Every student will have an equal opportunity to receive a solid education program. As a District, we believe that consistent school attendance is essential for success in school. Maximum learning cannot occur if a child is not in class. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the parent and the student to hold absences to a minimum.

Compulsory School Attendance Law

The school-age person shall attend school for at least the length of time of the school year that is established in the school districts in which the child is a resident or enrolled and the school district shall not excuse a student from attending school except as provided in the Compulsory School Attendance Law or for parent-authorized medical reasons (See Exclusions and Exemptions from School Conditions (Chronic Health Conditions) Eligibility and physicians form). Legal Ref.: 22-1-2 NMSA, 22-12-1 NMSA.

Following an absence, upon return to school, a note of explanation from the parent is required, unless the parent notified the school in writing in advance of the absence. School administrators are authorized to excuse students from school for necessary and justifiable reasons.

A student with five (5) **unexcused** absences within a school year is a student in need of early intervention and one with ten (10) or more unexcused absences within a school year is “**habitually truant**”.

Upon a student’s fifth (5th) unexcused absence within a school year, parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be contacted to inform them of the absences and to establish a meeting and to create a cooperative arrangement to prevent future absences by identifying:

- The cause(s),
- Preventive measures,
- Resources to address the causes, and
- A corrective action plan including follow-up procedures (*See, Action Plan for Students with Attendance Problems*)

Upon a student’s tenth (10th) **unexcused** absence within a school year, written notice of the habitual truancy shall be sent the parent and will document the following:

- Attempts to notify the parent of student unexcused absences,
- Attempts to meet with the parents to discuss intervention strategies, and
- Intervention strategies implemented to support keeping the student in school.

Once a student is deemed habitually truant, efforts will continue on a regular basis to meet with parents and revise an action plan for the student.