

## 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.

The New Mexico Legislature replaced the “Compulsory School Law” and with the “Attendance for Success Act” in the Spring of 2019. The following attendance policy follows the directives of the “Act”.

- ◆ All absences are tracked and progressive interventions are to be used when absences exceed set parameters.
- ◆ “Excused absence” means absence from a class or school day for a death in the family, medical absence, religious instruction or tribal obligations or any other allowable excuse pursuant to the policies of the local school board. NOTE: *A written notification for an expected absence should be provided before the absence when it is known of ahead of time. For medical appointments, a doctor’s note is expected to be given to the school on the next day the student is in attendance. After two days without a written explanation from the parent given to the school office for allowable reasons for absence, the absence will remain “unexcused”.*
- ◆ An “unexcused absence” means an absence from a class or school day for which the student does not have an allowable excuse pursuant to the Attendance for Success Act or policies of the local school board. NOTE: *If a written explanation for absence is not received within two days after the student returns to school or if make-up work is not received within two days after the student’s absence, the absence will remain “unexcused”*.
- ◆ There are two methods of “tracking” absences that school districts are required to use regarding absences: “Unexcused” absences and/or absences of any kind that exceed certain percentages:
  - Three (3) unexcused absences or total absences exceeding five (5) percent (9 absences) but not exceeding ten (10) percent (18 absences) =Early Intervention
  - Chronic Absenteeism - Five (5) unexcused absences or absences totaling more than ten (10) percent (18 absences) = “Specialized Support”
  - Excessive Absenteeism - Seven (7) unexcused absences or absences totaling over twenty (20) percent (36 absences) = “Intensive Support and Intervention” NOTE: The school district is required to report to the Children, Youth and Families Department when a student has reached excessive absenteeism.

SUMMARY: It is the task of parents/guardians, the school district and, if needed, CYFD to help students be in school. You can use the internet and type in the search engine “New Mexico Attendance for Success Act” in order to read or print the law or you may request a copy from the school district if needed. You are always welcome to call the school district or principal of your child’s school to get clarification about attendance when and if needed .