

Attendance page 3

Per state law, students are not allowed to be absent more than 8 days per semester. Otherwise, they risk losing credit for their class(es). School-related absences (marked as "X- __" in Skyward) do NOT count toward this total. "Excused" absences, for which students bring in a note from their parents, (marked as "E- ___") DO count toward this total.

In other words, "excused" absences are not actually considered excused absences under the state's 90% attendance rule (although they may be considered by the campus attendance review committee when determining extenuating circumstances -- please see below).

According to the attached LISD regulations, if a student is absent more than 10% of the time, but not more than 25%, they can receive credit through the Principal's plan. In LISD, this typically requires the student to attend one or more days of an academic 'boot camp' in the late spring.

If a student is absent more than 25% of the time, a committee may allow them to receive the credit but only if there are extenuating circumstances. They can also be required to do credit recovery (PLATO, Odyssey-ware, etc.).

Please impress upon your students that "excused" absences are not truly excused for purposes of the state law and encourage them not to risk losing their credits and/or graduation.

Since we are approaching the half-way point of the semester, please check which students have 5 or more absences next to their name on the Skyward-Post Daily Attendance screen and follow up with them. If necessary, put them on contract so the At-Risk Committee can support you.