

# ATTENDANCE - IT'S THE LAW

## COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW

- The State of Texas requires that a child who is at least six years of age, or who is younger than six years of age and has previously been enrolled in first grade, and who has not yet reached the child's 18th birthday, shall attend school. **Texas Education Code Section 25.085**
- The Compulsory School Attendance Law has been violated if a student is required to attend school under T.E.C. Section 25.085 and fails to attend school on 10 or more days or parts of days (without excuse) within a six-month period of time in the same school year or fails to attend school on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period of time. **Texas Education Code Section 25.094**
- It is the PARENT's duty to monitor the student's school attendance and require the student to attend school. At SFHS, a parent may call the school at any time to inquire about his/her student's attendance record. Additionally, a parent may monitor attendance online and call the school with any questions/concerns.

### Contact Info:

- Shoni McGee – Attendance Data Specialist
- Teachers should be the first line of contact regarding a parent believing their student to have been counted absent/present in error.
- If a student is not in compliance with the Texas Education Code, the student and/or parent are subject to prosecution for Failure to Attend School (student) and Parent Contributing to Nonattendance (parent).
  - A person who enrolls in school or voluntarily attends school after the person's 18th birthday shall attend school for the entire period the program of instruction is offered. A school district may revoke, for the remainder of the school year, the enrollment of a person who has more than 5 absences in a semester that are not excused under **Texas Education Code Section 25.087**

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN AT SANTA FE HIGH SCHOOL?

- Your student must be in attendance at SFHS all day, every day. ***If your student must miss school for any reason, a parent note, doctor's excuse, or court document MUST be turned in to the school stating the reason for the absence.*** The documentation MUST be turned in within 3 days of the student's RETURN to school. If we do not receive the documentation timely, the absence will be UNEXCUSED (and it will count towards violation of compulsory school attendance).
- If your student accumulates 3 days/parts of days of unexcused absences (2 or more class periods), a Warning Notice will be mailed to the mailing address listed in SFISD records. Upon receipt of the notice, please contact the school to discuss the absences/attendance record of your student.
- The truancy officer will attempt to reach you at home by phone to discuss the absences after the Warning Notice has been mailed. The number called will be the number designated as the primary number in SFISD records. A message will be left if the number has voice mail or an answering service. We cannot promise that more than one phone call/message will be made.
- **If your student accumulates 10 days/parts of days of unexcused absences** (2 or more class periods), an affidavit will be filed with the court alleging a violation of **Texas Education Code Section 25.094**, Failure to Attend School and/or Parent Contributing to Nonattendance. The court will issue a summons and the parent and/or student will be required to appear in court and face prosecution of a Class C misdemeanor.
- If your student is 18 years of age at the start of school, or turns 18 years of age during the school year and attends school after his/her 18th birthday, at SFHS, you are subject to prosecution for failure to attend school in lieu of an administrative withdrawal.
- **Truancy is different/separate from Make-Up hours.** Even if the student makes up hours for purposes of obtaining credit for class, unexcused absences are NOT erased for purposes of truancy.