

Attendance & Achievement

How are attendance and achievement connected?

Young people achieve at their maximum ability when in school for full instruction and involvement every day. They learn work ethic, commitment, promptness, and participation. These carry through from school to success in adult life.

What are the provisions of the Pennsylvania statute which addresses attendance?

The Pennsylvania Compulsory Attendance Law notes the following:

- Any day a student is absent from school the parent/guardian must email, call or write an absence excuse note.
- These areas are considered valid for excused absences: illness, religious holiday, death in the family, and educational trips or vacation (as per policy below, with prior approval by the principal).

How do the Central Bucks School District Attendance Policies link with the state law?

- If a student is not in school on a given day for the following reasons, the absence is considered “unexcused”: oversleeping, truancy, missing the school bus, child care, visiting family or friends.
- After 3 days of unlawful absence within one school year, parents/guardians will receive a letter from the school outlining the consequences of habitual truancy and inviting them to a School Attendance Improvement Conference. Additional absences may result in a referral to a school-based attendance improvement program, referral to Bucks County Children and Youth Services, and/or a citation for violating compulsory attendance laws.
- After 10 days of absences, Central Bucks School District Policy requires a note from a *physician* to excuse absences. Absences not excused by a physician’s note may be considered illegal and referred to the District Justice, Bucks County Children and Youth, or both.

Is lateness a part of the law?

Tardiness is recorded. If a pattern develops, accumulated time missed can be considered an unexcused absence.

What is the CB family travel policy?

A maximum of two separate absences for family travel per year will be excused. The total number of days missed must not exceed five (5) days. Days exceeding these guidelines are considered unlawful and/or unexcused.

What is the procedure for excusing student absences?

- **Parents/guardians are encouraged to call the school attendance hotline to report an absence as soon as it is known that a student will be missing school. That number is 267-893-2920. Parents/guardians may also email TamanendAttendance@cbsd.org or fax a note to 267-893-5818 to report an absence. If a note is emailed, faxed or called in, no paper excuse note is necessary.**
- If an excuse email or call is not received within three days of absence, the absences will be considered unlawful. The Dean of Students will assign a detention to the student. Parents/guardians will receive a letter from the school outlining the consequences of habitual truancy and inviting them to a School Attendance Improvement Conference. Additional absences may result in a referral to a school-based attendance improvement program, referral to Bucks County Children and Youth Services, and/or a citation for violating compulsory attendance laws.

With regard to school attendance, list some positive steps which can be taken to maximize success:

- Try to schedule appointments (doctor, dental, etc.) outside of the school day.
- Use the [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#) to monitor your student’s attendance and progress in school.
- Call the school if you have questions regarding your student’s absence.
- Consult the [school calendar](#) if you are unsure about the impact of an activity which will require missing instructional time.
- Wherever possible, use the open days on the district calendar in planning family travel and other important events.

We know that good attendance is essential to school success. The majority of Tamanend students have exemplary attendance. Parents understand, and students show every day, the positive connection of attendance and achievement. Excessive absenteeism (greater than 10% on a given date in the school year, whether excused or unexcused), indicates a need for the school and the family to work cooperatively so the pattern of attendance can be addressed. Thank you for your support in being aware of this most important factor in achieving success.