

# Attendance 101

for administrators, parents, students and the community

## BIG PICTURE

DeSoto ISD receives funding from the state for ADA - average daily attendance - for each student enrolled in the district. In addition, for vertical learning to take place, students must have a solid foundation and build upon each learned skill before moving onto the next step. Missed class time, impacts a student's (and sometimes the class's) ability to stay on track to complete the entire course in the semester.

## THE WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE AND HOW OF TAKING ATTENDANCE

**Official Attendance Time** is the point in time the district has chosen to take attendance - for all DeSoto ISD schools that time is **10 a.m.** Official attendance is not a 'period' during school. The time MAY change during testing days to eliminate disruptions.

The classroom teacher is responsible for taking her class's attendance at 10 a.m. Attendance may not be taken by students, classroom aides or clerks. A sign-in sheet is not acceptable.

## STATE FUNDING

**Student funding PER YEAR = \$5,505; PER DAY = \$31.10 per day (\$5,505 / 177 days) per student regular ADA**

Special Program Areas:

- |                              |                  |                                |               |
|------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| • Special Education (varies) | Weight = 1.1-5.0 | • Career & Technical Education | Weight = 1.35 |
| • Compensatory Education     | Weight = 0.2     | • Bilingual / ESL              | Weight = 0.1  |
| • Pregnancy-Related Services | Weight = 2.41    | • Gifted / Talented            | Weight = 0.12 |

## EXCUSED VS. UNEXCUSED

For official attendance accounting purposes, excused and unexcused absences do not matter. If present it counts toward funding, if absent it does not.

For academic purposes, a student must provide a parent note within 5 school days to the school attendance clerk that describes the reason for absence. Permitted absences include documented health care appointment, juvenile court proceedings, death in immediate family, an approved college visit and a few others. For the complete attendance and truancy policy, please review the Code of Conduct online at [www.dsotoisd.org](http://www.dsotoisd.org)

## SCENARIOS

1. Let take Johnny as an example. He is compensatory ed (at-risk), bilingual, GT and in a CTE classes.

We start with the \$31.10 per day funding allocated for a DeSoto ISD student.

$(\$31.10 \times .2 \text{ comp. ed}) + (\$31.10 \times .12 \text{ GT}) + (\$31.10 \times .1 \text{ BIL}) + (6 \text{ hr. class for CTE})$  - funding formulas

Johnny =  $\$31.10 + \$6.22 + \$3.72 + \$3.11 + \$6 = \$50.15$  per day

- **If Johnny misses 5 days of school (excused or unexcused) the monetary loss for absences is \$250.75!**
- The loss funding is equal to a new chrome book or iPad in the classroom.

2. Now let's compound the situation across a school!

If there are only six students absent from a school each day, that's 1,062 campus absences for the year.

- **1,062 x \$31.10 (just the base funding!) = \$33,028.20**
- That's equivalent to a 3% raise for 22 teachers!

3. What does that do to DeSoto ISD?

If there are six students absent from EACH school (12) each day, that's 12,744 district absences for the year.

- **12,744 x \$31.10 (just the base funding!) = \$396,388.40**
- That's equivalent to 6 additional full-time teachers, plus computers in their class and even more!

## LAST WORD

DeSoto ISD is an education, non-profit that is funded by students being at school. The more students, and staff, attend school every day the more funding we have to spend on their education. Absences hurt all of us!

**Every student in school, every day!**

