

## Absenteeism and truancy ≠ student achievement and success

Mesa Public Schools is committed to helping students achieve, and regular attendance at school is key to their success. The district is increasing its enforcement efforts to reduce absenteeism and truancy, which is defined as unexcused absences.

Parents are expected to notify the school if their child is going to be absent. Procedures are in place that track student attendance and trigger enforcement efforts. If your child has excessive absences or is truant, you will receive a warning letter. An attendance officer may visit or call your home to discuss ways of improving attendance and explain possible consequences for parents as well as the student.

Elementary Schools count each half day a student is absent as one absence for truancy purposes. The school principal has the authority to determine if an absence is excused. Students are habitually truant if they have five or more unexcused absences. They are excessively absent if they have 18 or more excused or unexcused absences.

To learn more please see the [2014-15 Elementary Students Information and Guidelines](#)