



T0: KCSD High School Parents

FROM: Dan Matthews, KCSD Chief Academic Officer

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### **State High School Attendance Requirements and Course Validation Process**

Kershaw County School District complies with state laws and SC State Board of Education regulations (S.C. CODE R43-274, S.C. CODE 59-65-90) in regards to school attendance. [KCSD Board Policy JH](#) addresses student absences and excuses.

Each year, schools provide attendance requirement information to parents and students in the student handbook.

Absences in high schools are accrued per course. The state allows five absences during a semester course. The first five absences may be lawful (excused), unlawful (unexcused), or a combination of both. **All absences beginning with the sixth must be lawful.**

The district will consider a student lawfully absent after their five original absences, under the following circumstances:

- The student is absent due to illness with a medical excuse.
- There is a serious illness or death in the student's immediate family.
- There is a recognized religious holiday of the student's faith.
- There are prearranged absences for other reasons and/or extreme hardships at the discretion of the principal.
- The student is absent due to a certified court appearance or related court-ordered activity including, but not limited to, court-ordered treatment services.

If a high school student misses too many days by state law (more than five, with the sixth being unlawful) to receive credit for a course they have passed, they are given the opportunity to validate the course to regain credit. At the end of each semester, students are notified through the school's Guidance Department if they have courses that need to be validated. The cost to validate is \$10 per day for each course. Validating students must pay for all costs and complete classwork and the required number of hours to regain course credit(s) within 30 days of the end of the semester.

Parents are encouraged to routinely monitor student attendance by accessing the information through PowerSchool. Parents/guardians receive automated notifications each time a student has a school absence through the district's mass notification system. If a parent/guardian has a question, the school principal or attendance office should be contacted as soon as possible.