

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT



All Students age 5 to 18 shall attend school regularly as set forth in section 22.1-254 of the Code of Virginia.

Absences may be excused for reasons such as illnesses, death in the family, court appearances, medical appointments, religious holidays or extenuating circumstances, which are approved by the principal.

- If a student does not attend school regularly, except in cases where excuses have been submitted to the school's attendance clerk, the school will respond by written notification after **three (3) unexcused absences**.
- If a student accumulates **five (5) unexcused absences**, parents will be asked to attend a conference with the Assistant Principal, School Social Worker, Teacher and/or a School Counselor.
- After **seven (7) unexcused absences**, the School Social Worker will intervene and/or may refer to FAPT.
- **Tenth (10)** unexcused absences, you and your child may face court involvement.

MISSION

Educating Tomorrow's Leaders

Sussex County Public Schools mission is to provide a safe and secure learning environment where all students can develop into knowledgeable and productive citizens.

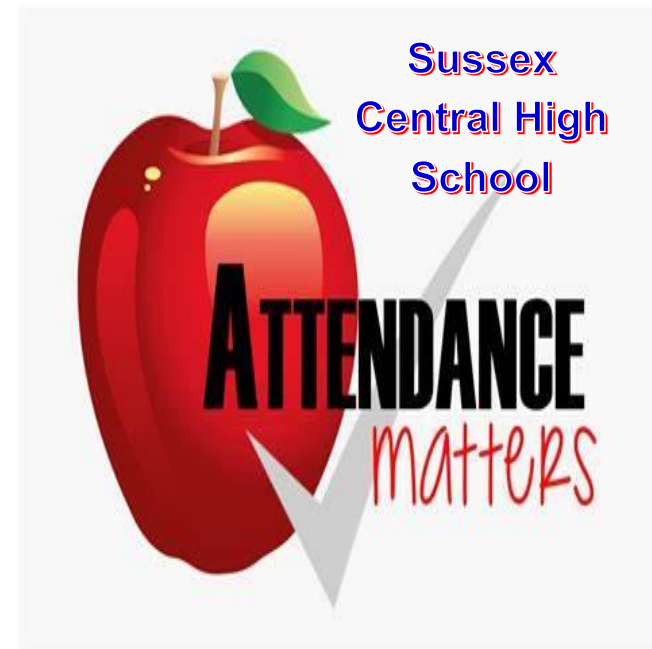
Sussex County Public Schools will provide the necessary instructional resources, learning opportunities and leadership for students to reach their highest educational potential to our leaders of tomorrow.

**We Believe in Our
Students!**



Truancy & Chronic Absenteeism

SCPS Official Website:
www.sussex.k12.va.us





PARENTS/GUARDIANS-

YOU ARE IMPORTANT!

You play a Key Role in School Attendance

When your child is going to be absent, Parents and Guardians are **responsible** for calling their child's school between 7:25 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. to notify the school of your child's absences. The school will also telephone parents or guardians to verify their child's absence.

Parents must send a note on the child's day of return, explaining the reason for their child's absence.

Here is how Parents/Guardians can help to **avoid** Truancy and Chronic absenteeism:

- Educate yourself about the school's attendance policy
- Ensure your child attends school daily
- Get to know school staff
- Attend scheduled Parent/Teacher conferences
- Assist your child with establishing goals

"Truancy is defined as an unexcused absence"

Virginia Department
of Education

Truancy and excessive absenteeism could promote:

- ✓ Decrease in learning ability
- ✓ Difficulty maintaining grades and completing assignments
- ✓ Increased risk of dropping out
- ✓ Criminal involvement
- ✓ High risk of failing

Consequences of Truancy

- Parents who ignore attendance laws may be fined
- Referral to School Social Worker and possibly court services
- Referral to the Department of Social Services
- Students under 18 who have 10 or more consecutive absences risk having their driver's license suspended by Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts



CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing **10 percent or more of a school year**. Chronic absenteeism incorporates all absences: excused, unexcused and suspensions. The focus is on the academic consequences of lost instructional time and on preventing absences, before students miss so much school that they fall behind.

Sussex County Public Schools understand that issues arise such as illness, homelessness or unreliable transportation. However, Sussex County Public Schools is committed to ensuring we assist our students with overcoming barriers, which may decrease their school attendance.

For more information, contact:

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