



Dallastown Area School District

700 New School Lane
Dallastown, Pennsylvania 17313-9242
(717) 244-4021 ext. 4268 Telephone
www.dallastown.net

Mr. Keith Dyke, Supervisor Social and Student Services

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are writing to inform you that the 2017-18 school year marks the beginning of new attendance laws in the Commonwealth of PA with the passing of [Act 138](#), amending [Public School Code of 1949, Chapter 13](#). Act 138 was enacted to improve school attendance and deter truancy through a comprehensive approach to consistently identify and address attendance issues as early as possible. To be compliant with the new state laws, the Dallastown Area School District has updated its attendance protocols and procedures.

It is very important for children to develop habits of arriving on time, and making school attendance a priority. Every instructional minute is critical to your child's success. Please partner with us to identify, address and eliminate root causes and unmet needs that adversely affect your child's daily attendance.

Under Act 138, Dallastown Area School District's responses will be as follows when your child is absent:

ABSENCES – All absences within the 2017-18 school year:		
<i>If your child is absent</i>	3 <u>consecutive</u> school days	A Physician's Note is <u>required</u> to excuse the absence (<i>new protocol this year</i>). The Physician's Note must be a York County Physician's Note (located on the DASD District Website , Parents Tab) or on official stationary from the physician's office.
<i>If your child is absent</i>	4 days throughout the school year	An email or letter will be forwarded to parent/guardian (<i>new protocol this year</i>) intended to raise awareness and identify causes.
<i>If your child is absent</i>	8 days throughout the school year	A letter will be forwarded to parent/guardian intended to raise awareness, identify causes, and explain the Physician's Note requirement for <u>every absence</u> should absences continue.
<i>If your child is absent</i>	10 days throughout the school year	A letter will be forwarded to parent/guardian stating that a Physician's Note will be <u>required for every future absence</u> .
Approved Educational Trips are limited to ten (10) days/year		

ILLEGAL ABSENCES – All Illegal Absences within the 2017-18 school year:		
<i>If your child is absent</i>	2 illegal days throughout the school year	A personal contact will be made to parent/guardian via phone call, conference and/or a home visit (<i>new protocol this year</i>).

<i>If your child is absent</i>	3 illegal days throughout the school year	A personal contact will be made to parent/guardian with a written notice of truancy. An <i>Attendance Improvement Conference</i> will be recommended.
<i>If your child is absent</i>	4 to 5 illegal days throughout the school year	An <i>Attendance Improvement Conference</i> <u>will be required</u> at which time a <i>Student Attendance Improvement Plan</i> will be developed and referrals to school/community based programs will be made. Truancy citation(s) may be filed.
<i>If your child is absent</i>	6 illegal days throughout the school year	Referrals will be made to school/community based Attendance Improvement Programs. Referrals may be made to York County Children and Youth. Truancy citation(s) will be filed.
	Parent/guardian may be cited for truant students 14 years or age and under Parent/guardian and/or student may be cited for students 15-16 years old Truancy fines have increased under Act 138	

Please refer to your child's Student Handbook, located on the [DASD District Website](#) under their school building, for additional information and Absence Reporting methods.

Sincerely,



Mr. Keith Dyke
Supervisor of Social and Student Services