

Hawaii Revised Statutes

Parents or guardians having responsibility for the care of a child must send the child to school unless exempted by law. HRS 302A-1135 provides that a parent or guardian who does not enforce the child's regular attendance may be guilty of a petty misdemeanor. The penalty for a petty misdemeanor is a fine up to \$1000 (HRS 760-640) or jail time up to thirty (30) days (HRS 706-663).

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COHC
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Fern Elementary School

Attendance Policy



The State Compulsory Attendance Law requires that students between the ages of five and eighteen attend the school in the district in which the parent or guardian resides unless a geographic exception is submitted and approved.

Reporting an Absence

When your child is absent, please call the school to share the reason for the absence or send a note, or doctor's note, when your child returns to school.

Classes start at 8:00 a.m.

Students will be considered tardy if they report to school after 8:05 a.m. Students who arrive at school after 8:05 a.m. must report to the office for a tardy pass.

Fern Attendance Program

Teachers, office staff, counselors and administrators will monitor student attendance throughout the school year.

- Parents will be notified when their child accumulates 4 days of unexcused absences and tardy days by an Attendance Letter.
- Counselors will work with the family when a student acquires 6 days of absences and/or tardies.
- Counselors and/or administrators will arrange conferences, and home visits when a student has 8 days of absence.
- If the attendance problem persists, a Family Court petition for Educational Neglect may be filed at the discretion of the school.

Family Trips

Family trips during the school year are highly discouraged. Please notify administration in writing if a trip is necessary.

Why so Serious?

Grades and achievement are not the only measure of success. Growth matters. And the first step to growth and success is consistent school attendance. For children between the ages of 5 to 11, chronic absenteeism is defined by those who acquire 15 or more school days a year (excluding medical emergencies).

Research shows...

Research shows that consistent school attendance builds a sound foundation for all learning. Regardless of race, gender, or economic status, kids lose out when they are chronically absent.

Kindergarteners who were chronically absent show lower levels of achievement in math, reading, and general knowledge by grade one.

Lost time in the classroom and minimal support to catch up in the home can lead to low levels of achievement at the end of fifth grade.

(National Center for Children in Poverty, 2008)



Tips for the Family

- Let your entire family know that school is important.
- Keep the school informed of any changes in phone numbers, address, or health.
- Show an interest in school, its activities, and how your kids are doing.
- Make regular school attendance a habit at an early age.
- Don't make up excuses for missing school.
- Don't let children stay home to babysit.
- Set and enforce a regular bedtime every "school night" (Sunday night to Thursday night.).
- Allow children time to "settle down" 10 minutes before bed.
- Invest in an alarm clock.