

**ROYAL PALM EXCEPTIONAL CENTER – ATTENDANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

**Who Must Attend School and the Florida State Statutes on Attendance**

Every student enrolled in the School District of Lee County is required to attend school every day, unless they have an excused absence.

§1003.21; §1003.22; §1003.23; §1003.24; §1003.25; §1003.26; §1003.27; §1003.28; §1003.29

Legal interventions may be requested by the District if attendance continues beyond the school-based efforts. These include: TIP, TURN, and Court Sanctions.

**Excused vs. Unexcused Absences**

Students must be in school unless the absence has been permitted or excused for one of these reasons:

•           Illness of the student or immediate family member

•           Death in the immediate family

•           Religious instruction/ religious holidays

•           Appointment (medical, dental, therapeutic, etc.)

•           Court appearance/subpoena

•           Special Event as determined by administration team

•           Communicable illness

•           Field trip

•           Alternative to suspension

Unexcused absences are absences not excused as defined in the previous section. Also, a lack of documentation for a pattern of non-attendance could lead to an unexcused absence.

**What is Habitual Truancy?**

Florida State Statute defines "habitual truancy" as a student who has **15** or more unexcused absences within **90** calendar days with or without the knowledge or consent of the student's parent or guardian, and who is subject to compulsory school attendance. If your student does not attend school on a regular basis, their permit or driver’s license may be suspended until they reach the age of 18.