

Esperanza Cyber Charter School Attendance Policy

The attendance policy can be found in the Code of Conduct and is approved annually by the Board of Trustees.

Approved August 2016

State law requires all children of schooling age to be enrolled in school (“compulsory education”) and each School District in which an ECCS student resides has policies that require ECCS to report any incidences of truancy. In addition, Esperanza Cyber Charter School places a high value on student participation and attendance. Regular school attendance is a primary factor in a student’s successful academic and social development and lays the groundwork for a successful and productive life beyond school. Frequent absences of pupils from regular learning experiences disrupt the continuity of the instructional process. The benefit of regular instructional time is demonstrated to be efficacious and cannot be entirely regained, even if lost. Consequently, many pupils who miss instructional time frequently experience great difficulty in achieving the maximum benefits of schooling.

Students are expected to attend school online regularly and must have good reason for any and all absences. A parent/guardian is expected to call the school before ~~8:30~~ 7:40 a.m. on the day of the absence. Failure to provide notice of a student’s absence will result in the absence being recorded as “unexcused”.

A student missing 10 or more class days from a semester long course (or 20 days from a yearlong course) may receive a failing grade for excessive absences. The parent/guardian of a student who has exceeded the number of allotted days must meet with an administrator to provide further explanation and possibly documentation for the excessive absences. In addition to this meeting, there will be regular contact with the parent by the school administration who will notify parents when their child is nearing the limit set forth in this policy. Active participation is an expectation for all students and is measured by online course activity of four or more hours per day. Students who are logged in for an inadequate period of time (less than 4 hours) will be monitored by ECCS and communication with the home will be initiated. Parents are expected to monitor their children’s time on task as well and are expected to communicate with school administration any concerns concerning their students’ progress.

Students enrolled in Cyber School are required to attend school for the same number of instructional days (180) and hours (990) as students who attend a traditional brick-and-mortar school. Attendance is taken each day that the Cyber School is open; though students are able to continue working on days when the school is not open (weekends, holidays, professional development days, etc.). ECCS does not close for snow days and although the Learning Center may not be available for student use, all classes will continue virtually as regularly scheduled and attendance will be taken. Attendance is counted each day that a student logs in to their online account and actively participates in their classes (more than four hours per day). Participation is counted as engaging in daily online lesson activities, communicating with their teacher, participating in class activities (synchronous or asynchronous), or attending other scheduled academic events.

Failure to log in to the school's learning management system and/or virtual class sessions on a daily basis will be counted as an absence. The student will be marked as "unexcused" without notification from a parent or guardian. Excessive unexcused absences (three consecutive) may result in the school reporting the student as truant and exercising additional disciplinary measures.