



EXCUSED ABSENCE FOR A DOCTOR/DENTIST APPOINTMENT:

Texas Health Steps (THSteps) provides medical and dental services for children enrolled in Medicaid. Just as you want to provide the best education for your students, we want to provide the best health care for these same students. Texas Health Steps checkups include medical, dental, vision and hearing screenings, and vaccines. Therapeutic dental services could require several appointments to complete.

The Texas Education Code (TEC) requires a school district to release a student to attend a doctor's or a dentist's appointment as stated by TEC §25.087 (b) about excused absences. The following is an excerpt from this subsection: "A school district shall excuse a student for temporary absence resulting from health care professionals if that student commences classes or returns to school on the same day of the appointment."

The TEC also states that this excused absence does not affect your school's average daily attendance (ADA). As stated in TEC §25.087(c): "A student whose absence is excused under subsection (b) may not be penalized for that absence and shall be counted as if the student attended school for purposes of calculating the average daily attendance of students in the school district."

Thank you.