

Student Attendance

Regular attendance is essential to the educational process. Students who are absent from class for any reason are deprived of a variety of educational opportunities. A day lost can never be recaptured. The dialogue that has taken place between teacher and students will not be duplicated. Thus, regular attendance is a vital part of the teaching-learning process. Absence from school must be only for the most serious or reasons including, but not limited to, personal illness, death in the family, or legal appointments.

Students shall be in attendance at public schools in accordance with requirements of the compulsory school attendance law and for the number of full-length days prescribed by law.

The school year is 180 days. A student in any Muscogee County School who misses more than 15 days in any class shall not receive credit. In classes that meet for 90 days, a student who misses more than 7 days shall not receive credit.

The parent or guardian may appeal a decision to withhold credit for an individual student based on excessive absences. Appeals must be made to the principal in writing within two weeks on the basis of hardship, extenuating circumstances or other extreme emergencies. If the appeal is denied by the principal, a request in writing may be sent to the Superintendent or his designated assistant within five school days for an informal review and hearing.

Every parent, guardian or other person residing in the State of Georgia is required to enroll and send children in their care and charge, between the ages of six and sixteen, to school unless the child is specifically exempt. Children specifically exempt from the requirement of the compulsory school attendance law are those who are mentally or physically incapacitated to perform school duties.

Excused Absences

1. Children may be temporarily excused from school (1) when they are personally ill and their attendance in school would endanger their health or the health of others; (2) when in the immediate family there is a serious illness or death which would reasonably necessitate absence from school; (3) on special and recognized religious holidays observed by their faith; (4) when mandated by order of governmental agencies (pre-induction physical examination of service in armed forces or court order); (5) principal's approval of attendance at school related experiences.

2. Children may be excused from school attendance when prevented from such attendance due to conditions rendering school attendance impossible or hazardous to their health or safety.
3. Children who are at least 12 years of age and are serving as pages of the Georgia General Assembly shall be credited as present by the school in which they are enrolled for days missed from school for this purpose.
4. Individual students who have emergencies necessitating their absence from school for a portion of the school day must have been present for the majority of the school day in order to be included in the average daily attendance count. When there is cause necessitating an individual student to be excused from school for a portion of the school day, the student shall be released from school only to his/her parent(s), to a person properly identified to school authorities or upon request by letter or telephone call from the parents.

Unexcused Absences

Unexcused absences are all failures to attend school other than those specifically excused by the administration. Unexcused absences shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) oversleeping, (2) missing the bus, (3) baby sitting, (4) joining the family for vacation outings, (5) skipping school and cutting classes.

ADOPTED: March 18, 2002

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MUSCOGEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION