

Responsibility Of Parent/Guardian

- A. Students are required to be on time for school. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to assure that their children arrive on time each day. After fifteen (15) tardies, a referral will be made to the Early Warning Truancy/Discipline Program. Suspensions are unexcused absences.
- B. Anytime a student is absent, the parent/guardian must send a written note to school satisfactorily explaining the absence. A satisfactory note from parent/guardian meets the following state guidelines:
- ❖ Illness of the child.
 - ❖ Death in immediate family.
 - ❖ Inclement weather which would be dangerous to the life and health of the child as determined by the principal.
 - ❖ Legal quarantine.
 - ❖ Emergency conditions as determined by the principal.
 - ❖ Prior permission of the principal and consent of the parent/guardian.
- The note or doctor's excuse must be sent to school within three (3) days of the student's return to school to be counted as an excused absence.
- C. A written note from the parent/guardian, as described above, will excuse absences for up to but not exceeding eight (8) absences.
- D. On the fifth (5) unexcused absence, a student is referred to the Early Warning/Truancy Discipline Program. Attendance at the Early Warning/Truancy Discipline Program shall be mandatory except where prior arrangements have been made or an emergency exists.

- E. The parent/guardian of a student who is absent nine (9) or more times must present a clinical or doctor's excuse to the school in order for the absences to be excused.
- F. The parent/guardian of any student who has a chronic ailment that may cause the student to miss school during the year is required to provide the school with a physician's statement of illness verifying the student's condition. At the beginning of each semester, a new physician's statement of illness must be provided. A parent/guardian note is still required within three (3) school days for any chronic ailment absence. Failure of the parent/guardian to provide the school with a physician's statement of illness and parent note for each absence can result in unexcused absence accumulation and referral to Juvenile Court.
- G. Prior permission must be obtained from the principal in order for absences for out-of-town trips to be excused.
- H. Students must attend one-half of the instructional day to be counted present. The parent/guardian must send a written note if the student is checked out of school prior to completing one-half of the instructional day. Tardies and early dismissals are strongly discouraged.
- I. Any parent/guardian having housing instability that may cause the student to miss school is requested to communicate with the school's registrar and/or administrator regarding their housing situation.

Headlice

Students should return to school as soon as possible cleared of lice and nits. Only three (3) days are excused for each occurrence of headlice.

Compulsory School Attendance Laws

Code of Alabama, Section 16-28-12

Each parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of any child required to attend school or receive regular instruction by a private tutor who fails to have the child enrolled in school or who fails to send the child to school, or have him or her instructed by a private tutor during the time the child is required to attend a public school, private school, church school, denominational school, or parochial school, or be instructed by a private tutor, or fails to require the child to regularly attend the school or tutor, or fails to compel the child to properly conduct himself or herself as a pupil in any public school in accordance with the written policy on school behavior adopted by the local board of education pursuant to this section and documented by the appropriate school official which conduct may result in suspension of the pupil, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100) and may also be sentenced to hard labor for the county for not more than 90 days. The absence of a child without the consent of the principal teacher of the public school he or she attends or should attend, or of the tutor who instructs or should instruct the child, shall be prima facie evidence of the violation of this section.

Code of Alabama, Amendment 16-28-16

An amendment of 16-28-16 of the Code of Alabama, specifies that each child who enrolls in a public school, regardless of age, is subject to the School Attendance and Truancy Laws of the state.

