

ELOISE T. BARRON, Ph.D.
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
FOR TEACHING & LEARNING

WILLIAM S. SCHOFIELD
Superintendent

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As a parent, you play the most important role in the education of your child. In order to make this a successful school year, your child must be in the classroom every day possible. It is the parents' responsibility to make sure excuses are submitted to your child's school.

The following process will be followed in all schools:

- The school will record attendance daily and collect excuses for all students absent from school, indicating, if necessary, what interventions have been tried to address attendance problems.
- When a student has **5 unexcused absences** the law requires that the parent/guardian be notified.
- A letter from the school will be sent to **all parents/guardians** of children who have 10 excused or unexcused absences during the entire school year.
- A school administrator and/or school counselor will monitor and provide appropriate interventions.
- If unexcused absences continue the administrator or counselor will submit information about students with a **pattern of unexcused absences** to the school social worker or other designated school personnel.
- School personnel will assess the situation by talking to the student, parent, and school staff, suggest appropriate interventions, and document attempts to reduce absences.
- If unexcused absences continue, the school social worker may refer the parent and/or the student to the appropriate court for truancy.
- High school students that have a total of 10 or more unexcused absences will be referred to the Georgia Department of Driver Services for suspension or denial of their driver's license.
- High school students with good attendance and grades may be able to exempt course exams.

As required under state law and State Board of Education rule, a student's absences are excused if validated for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness or attendance in school endangers a student's health or the health of others.
2. A serious illness or death in a student's immediate family necessitating absence from school.
3. A court order or an order by a governmental agency, including pre-induction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school.
4. Observing religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.
5. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.
6. A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the U.S. armed forces or National Guard, and such parent has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting will be granted up to 5 days of excused absences per school year to visit with his or her parent prior to the parent's deployment or during the parent's leave.
7. Registering to vote or voting in a public election which shall not exceed one day.
8. Any other absence not explicitly defined herein but deemed by the local school board of education to have merit based on circumstances.

Students shall be counted present when they are serving as pages of the Georgia General Assembly. Foster care students shall be counted as present when attending court proceedings relating to the students' foster care. **Other absences may be approved by the principal.**

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Compulsory Education Notification to Parents

We look forward to your cooperation in having your child in school every day (s)he is able to attend. **This Compulsory Education Notice must be read, signed, and returned to your child's school. Thank You!**

The Hall County School System is required by law to inform you of the following law and consequences. The school must keep a signed copy of this form on file for one school year.

O.C.G.A. 20-2-690.1 – Compulsory Education

(a) Every parent, guardian, or other person residing within this state having control or charge of any child or children between their sixth and sixteenth birthdays shall enroll and send such child or children to a public school, private school, or a home study program that meets the requirements for a public school, private school, or a home study program; and such child shall be responsible for enrolling in and attending a public school, private school, or a home study program under such penalty for noncompliance with this subsection as is provided in Chapter 11 of Title 15, unless the child's failure to enroll and attend is caused by the child's parent, guardian, or other person in which case the parent, guardian, or other person alone shall be responsible;

(b) Every parent, guardian, or other person residing within this state having control or charge of any child or children and who shall violate this code section shall be convicted of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be subject to:

A fine not less than \$25 and not more than \$100

Imprisonment not to exceed 30 days

Community service

Any combination of such penalties at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction

Each day's absence from school in violation of this part after the child's school system notifies the parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of a child of five unexcused absences shall constitute a separate offense.

O.C.G.A. 20-2-150 – Compulsory Education Law Pertaining to Kindergarten Students

All children enrolled for 20 school days or more in the public schools of this state shall become subject to all provisions of this article, the provisions of Code Section 20-2-690 through 20-2-702, and the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education relating to compulsory school attendance even though they have not reached seven years of age.

As the parent/guardian of _____, I have read the Georgia State Law on Compulsory Education.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____
(Students who are age 10 years or older by September 1st of this school year)