

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Admin. Reg. SS-5  
February, 2017 April, 2013

- I. **Purpose.** To establish the basic structure for student attendance.
- II. **Compulsory Attendance.** State law requires all children between the ages of five and seventeen to attend regularly a public or private school or kindergarten or be approved by the BCSD district or the South Carolina Independent Schools Association for home instruction. A parent/legal guardian whose child or ward is not six (6) years old on or before September 1st of the school year may waive kindergarten attendance for his/her child. For this purpose, the parent/legal guardian must present to the BCSD district a written document making such a decision.
- III. **Superintendent's Expectation.** The Superintendent board expects Beaufort County children to attend school regularly. Regular attendance is necessary if students are to make the desired and expected academic and social progress.

### IV. Unexcused Tardiness and Early Departures.

#### A. Definitions.

1. Tardiness shall be defined as arriving to school or class after the scheduled time for the class or school to begin. A tardy shall be unexcused unless a valid reason for being late exists. Valid reasons include, but are not limited to, the valid reasons for excusing an absence pursuant to BCSD Administrative Regulation SS-11, Student Absences and Excuses, BCSD Administrative Regulation SS-12, Release Time for Religious Instruction, and circumstances beyond the student's control such as situations in which a teacher or staff member detains a student.
2. Unexcused early departure shall be defined as the removal of a student from school prior to the end of the instructional day without a valid reason for an excused absence as defined in BCSD Administrative Regulation SS-11, Student Absences and Excuses, or BCSD Administrative Regulation SS-12, Release Time for Religious Instruction.

#### B. Tardiness or an early departure shall be an absence:

1. If a student misses more than fifty percent (50%) of a class period at the secondary level, the student will be considered absent from class, unless the absence is otherwise waived pursuant to BCSD Administrative Regulation SS-11, Student Absences and Excuses, or BCSD Administrative Regulation SS-12, Release Time for Religious Instruction.
2. If a student misses more than fifty percent (50%) of a school day, the student will be considered absent from school, unless the absence is otherwise waived pursuant to BCSD Administrative Regulation SS-11, Student Absences and Excuses, or BCSD Administrative Regulation SS-12, Release Time for Religious Instruction.

~~The school year consists of 180 school days. High school students must attend 85 days of each 90-day semester to receive one-half unit of credit. They must attend 170 days through~~

~~the course of the school year to receive one unit of credit. Local School Board has authorized Principals to make decisions regarding attendance and make-up (recovery) days.~~

Adopted: July 18, 2001  
Revised: July, 2010; April, 2013; February, 2017

Legal references:

A. S. C. Code, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 59-35-10 - Each district to provide a kindergarten program.
2. Section 59-63-20(3) - Entrance age for kindergarten program.
3. Section 59-63-20(4) - Entrance age for first grade.
4. Section 59-63-20(6) - Four-year-olds may attend optional child development programs.
5. Section 59-65-10 - Compulsory attendance age group in South Carolina ~~includes children ages five through 17~~; parents may waive compulsory kindergarten attendance requirement.

B. State Board of Education Regulations:

- ~~1. R 43 270 Attendance.~~
- ~~2. R 43 271 Entrance age.~~
- ~~3. R 43 272.1 South Carolina compulsory kindergarten program.~~
- 1.4. R-43-274 - Student attendance.