

Compulsory Attendance Notification

The State Compulsory Attendance Law O.C.G.A Code 20-2-690.1 states that mandatory attendance in a public school, private school, or home school program shall be required for children between their sixth and sixteenth birthdays. This applies to all children who reside in the state of Georgia. If a child is under six years of age and has attended more than 20 days in a public school, he/she is then subject to this law. The law also provides “penalties for parent(s), guardian(s), or other persons residing in Georgia who are in violation of O.C.G.A Code 20-2-690; which are imposed at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction”. Each day’s violation of the law, after the School District has notified the parent, guardian, or other person in charge of a child having **five (5) unexcused absences** from, shall constitute a separate offense subjecting the person notified to the following possible consequences:

1. In-House Attendance Meeting
2. Truancy Treatment Team referral
3. Referral to Truancy Court and/or Juvenile Court
4. Denial of or suspension of a driver’s license (high school)
5. Fine of not less than \$25 and no greater than \$100
6. Imprisonment not to exceed 30 days
7. Community Service
8. Any combination of the above penalties

In accordance with Dade County Board Policy, a student must bring a parent note from their parent or guardian or a medical/dental excuse. Parent notes must be hand-written, provide the date(s) and reason for the absence(s), parent or guardian signature, and phone number. Only five (5) parent notes will be accepted and considered “excused” throughout the school year. Medical/dental excuses must be printed/typed on the facilities letterhead, indicate the date, and scheduled time of the appointment, as well as the arrival and departure time of appointment. Medical/dental notes can be faxed by the medical facility or hand delivered to the attendance clerks or counselors of the school within **five (5)** calendar days of the return-to-school date.

Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure that your child keeps a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine;
- Lay out cloths and pack your child’s book bag the night before;
- Ensure that your child comes to school every day unless he or she is truly sick;
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor’s appointments when school is in session;
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your child feels anxious about going to school;
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up (Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school).

In addition, the Dade County School System is required by law to obtain parent/guardian and student signatures acknowledging receipt of the Compulsory Attendance Notification.