



Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we embark on a new school year, we are excited to partner with you to ensure the success and well-being of our students. One of the most critical components of student academic achievement and social-emotional growth is regular school attendance. We need your help and commitment to make this happen.

Why Attendance Matters

There are many reasons students may miss school, some of which are unavoidable, such as illness or transportation challenges. However, absences can accumulate over time, often without guardians realizing how many days their student has missed. Missing school regularly can lead to academic deficiencies and hinder future opportunities for your child.

Our Commitment

Our commitment is to keep you informed about your student's attendance rates, understand why absences are occurring, and work together to overcome any barriers. We believe that by working closely with families, we can help students stay on track for success.

Attendance Definitions

Understanding attendance requirements is essential for ensuring compliance with Kentucky State Statutes:

- **Compulsory Attendance:** All children who have entered kindergarten or who are between the ages of six, as of August 1, and eighteen, except those specifically exempted by statute, shall enroll and be in regular attendance (KRS 159.010).
- **Truancy:** Any student between the ages of six and eighteen who has been absent from school without a valid excuse for three (3) or more days, or tardy without a valid excuse on three (3) or more days, is a truant (KRS 159.150).
- **Habitual Truancy:** Any student who has been reported as a truant two or more times (6 days or more unexcused) within the school year is a habitual truant (KRS 159.150).

Legislative Changes and Impact

Recent legislative changes impact how we handle truancy. Below is a summary of House Bill 611 and its implications:

- **Mandatory Referral to County Attorney:** If a parent allows a K-5th student to accumulate 15 or more unexcused absences, the Director of Pupil Personnel (DPP) is required to refer the complaint to the county attorney. Additionally, the DPP must report any 6th-12th student with 15 or more unexcused absences. The Court Designated Worker (CDW) must refer the complaint to the county attorney for either court action or diversion.

These changes emphasize the importance of addressing attendance issues promptly and ensuring that we are all working together to support our students' education.

How You Can Help

We look forward to your support in making sure your child attends school every day. If you have concerns about your child's attendance, please contact Magoffin County Schools at 606.349.6117, attn. Director of Pupil Personnel. We are here to offer any support you may need.

Thank you for your commitment to your child's education. Together, we can ensure a bright and successful future for all our students.

Sincerely and Respectfully,

Justin Bailey
Director of Pupil Personnel
Magoffin County Schools