



Jackson County School System

1660 Winder Highway
Jefferson, GA 30549
706-367-5151
www.jacksonschools.ga

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

We appreciate your ongoing partnership in supporting your child's education. As educators and caregivers, we share a common goal: helping students grow, thrive, and reach their full potential. One important factor in achieving that success is consistent school attendance. When students are present and engaged each day, they benefit from the full range of classroom instruction, discussions, and activities that build knowledge and confidence over time. Every school day is a valuable opportunity for learning, and even small amounts of missed time through absences, tardies, or early checkouts can add up and impact progress.

The Jackson County School System requires all students to attend school in accordance with the requirements of the Georgia Compulsory Attendance Law. Based on this law, it is the duty of every parent, guardian, or other person having control of any child between ages six and sixteen to assure that the child attends a public school, private school, or home study program. Failure to comply constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by up to \$100 fine, 30 days imprisonment, or both. Each day's absence constitutes a separate offense (O.C.G.A. 20-2-690.1).

Excused absences are those designated by state law, State Board of Education policy, and Jackson County School Board policy. Students may be excused 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 family necessitating an absence.
3. A court order or an order by a government agency, including pre-induction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school.
4. The observance of religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.
5. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student's health or safety.
6. A scheduled medical, dental or eye examination of the student.
7. Registering to vote or voting, for a period not to exceed one day.
8. Visiting a parent or legal guardian who is in the military service in the armed forces and has been called to duty or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support post. The student may be excused for a maximum of 5 days per school year.



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Parents may write notes to the school excusing up to 5 absences per school year without documentation for any of the reasons listed above.

Any child who is enrolled in a public school for 20 or more school days before turning six years old is also subject to the compulsory attendance law, even if they have not yet reached their sixth birthday. Parents or guardians must submit valid medical or doctor's excuses for student absences promptly. Please be aware that submitting false or altered medical documentation is a serious offense. *Falsifying a doctor's excuse is considered a felony under state law, and any such instances may be reported to the appropriate authorities.* Our school routinely checks and verifies medical notes to ensure authenticity.

- 5 unexcused absences may result in a referral to the school's attendance committee
- 10 unexcused absences may result in a referral to the Attendance Review Board
- One day per school year will be excused for the treatment of head lice
- Absences accumulated in other Georgia schools during the same school year may be applied to these procedures
- Students are expected to make up all missed work, regardless of the reason for the absence

Please sign your name below indicating that you have read and discussed the compulsory attendance law policy with your child and you and your child acknowledge possible consequences and penalties for failing to comply with attendance regulations.

Student Name and Date

Parent/Guardian and Date

Student (Sign-10 and older) and Date