



Jefferson County School System

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we continue our commitment to providing every student in Jefferson County with a high-quality education, we are implementing updates to our attendance procedures beginning **Second Semester of the 2025–2026 school year**. These changes are designed to support student success, reduce chronic absenteeism, and ensure consistent instructional time for all learners.

Parent Notes – New Semester Limit

Starting next semester, families will be allowed to submit a **maximum of five (5) parent notes per student, per semester**.

Parent notes are intended for occasional illnesses or unforeseen circumstances that do not require formal documentation.

Accepted Formal Documentation

Absences excused with **official documentation** will *not* count toward the parent-note limit. Formal notes include:

- **Doctor or medical provider notes**
- **Court documentation**
- **Obituary or funeral home program** for the passing of an immediate family member
- **Therapy or counseling appointment documentation**
- **Mental or behavioral health provider notes**
- **Dental or orthodontic notes**
- **Military deployment or reintegration documentation**
- **Other official agency or legal notices**
- **School-approved educational or extracurricular activity documentation**

These forms of documentation must be submitted to the school within the required timeframe to be recorded properly.

Reminder: Georgia Attendance Guidelines

Under Georgia law (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.1), a student is considered **truant after five (5) unexcused absences**. Continued unexcused absences may lead to additional interventions as required by the state.

Our goal is not to penalize families, but to ensure students receive the instructional time needed for academic growth.

Our Commitment to Your Child's Success

We recognize that families face many challenges, and we appreciate the cooperation and communication you provide each school year. By reinforcing consistent attendance, we are working together to place **education first** and give students every opportunity to succeed.

If you have questions about these updates or need clarification on documentation, please contact your child's school attendance office.

Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to the students of Jefferson County.

Sincerely,
Dr. Samuel Dasher
Superintendent
Jefferson County School System