



Marengo High School

212 PANTHER DRIVE
DIXON MILLS, AL 36736
334-992-2394
FAX 334-992-2197

Mrs. Betina Johnson
Principal

Ms. Vanessa Brown-Hudson
Secretary

March 23, 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Regular school attendance is critical to your child's academic success. *Alabama law requires that all children between the ages of six (6) and seventeen (17) be enrolled in school and attend for the full instructional day. The law further states that the parent, guardian, or person having control of a school-age child is responsible for that child's regular attendance and proper conduct (Code of Alabama §16-28-3).*

When students miss excessive days of school, they lose valuable instructional time that cannot be fully recovered. Continued absences may also result in academic consequences under the Marengo County Schools Attendance Policy.

According to district policy:

All students are required to be at school by 7:45 a.m. Students arriving after this time will be considered tardy. Please note that three (3) tardies are equivalent to one (1) absence. Students are not permitted to enter the campus before 7:20 a.m.

Each child enrolled in a public school is subject to the Attendance and Truancy provisions of the State of Alabama and the Marengo County School System. The following procedures for handling unexcused absences/truancy will be uniformly enforced:

Grades K-12

- A kindergarten student who accumulates more than ten (10) absences in one semester may be withdrawn from the roll for the remainder of the school year.
- A student in Grades 1-8 who accumulates more than twenty (20) absences during the school year may be denied promotion.
- A student in Grades 9-12 who accumulates more than ten (10) absences in any class during a semester may be denied credit for that course.

In addition:

- Students must submit a written excuse within two (2) days of returning to school.

- After five parent notes, a doctor's excuse is required.
- Any exception to this policy must include official verification (doctor's statement, court documentation, etc.) and approval from the principal.

Excessive absences may also result in additional attendance interventions as required by the Alabama Compulsory School Attendance Law, including possible referral to truancy intervention programs.

- First Unexcused Absence/Truancy: A phone call will be made to the parent/guardian, and the student will receive an Unexcused Absence Letter to take home.
- Third Unexcused Absence/Truancy: A phone call will be made, and Attendance Letter #2 will be mailed to the home and sent home with the student.
- Fifth Unexcused Absence/Truancy: A mandatory Truancy Conference will be scheduled with the parent/guardian, student, attendance liaison, and school administrator. Parents are required to attend.
- Seventh Unexcused Absence/Truancy: A formal complaint/petition will be filed against the student and/or parent/guardian, which may result in court involvement.
- After the seventh unexcused absence, all absences will be reported weekly to the court system.

Additionally, please note the following checkout procedures:

- Students must be checked out through the school office only.
- Only individuals listed in the student's PowerSchool account are permitted to check out a student.
- A valid signature is required; no phone call checkouts will be accepted.
- Upon returning to school, students must be checked back in through the office, and a parent/guardian must sign them in.
- No checkouts will be permitted after 2:30 p.m.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE STANDARDS

"Certain attendance standards must be met by a student to obtain, retain, or renew a driver's license or learner's permit. The local school system is required to notify the Department of Public Safety when a student 16 to 19 years of age has more than 10 consecutive or 15 cumulative days of unexcused absences in any one semester.

Should a student 16 years of age or older withdraw from school, the system shall notify the Department of Public Safety."

We are asking for your immediate partnership in ensuring that your child attends school regularly and arrives on time each day. If there are circumstances affecting your child's attendance, please contact the school so that we can work together to support your child's success.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued partnership with Marengo High School.