



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR THE 2026–2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Mississippi has updated attendance requirements.
Together, we can help every child
LEARN, GROW, AND REACH THEIR GOALS!



ATTENDANCE POLICY CHANGES: OLD vs. NEW

POLICY CATEGORY	PREVIOUS POLICY (OLD)	REVISED POLICY (NEW)
 PARENT-EXCUSED ABSENCES	Parent/guardian could excuse up to 5 absences per year with a note.	✓ Student may receive up to 5 excused absences per semester (includes parent notes and medical excuses).
 MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION	No specific requirement regarding documentation was required for illness-related absences.	✓ Absences due to illness or injury beyond the 3rd absence require medical documentation.
 EXCESSIVE ABSENCES	Unlimited medical excuses were permitted with appropriate documentation.	✓ Additional excused absences beyond the semester limit require Superintendent approval for extenuating circumstances.
 MINIMUM DAY ATTENDANCE	Student had to attend 63% of the school day to be counted present.	✓ Student must attend 66% of the school day to be counted present (see cutoff times below).
 EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY	Student could participate in school-sponsored activities if absent for up to 37% of the day.	✓ Student will not participate in school-sponsored activities if absent for more than 33% of the day.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOUR FAMILY

-  **WE WILL CONTACT YOU SOONER.**
You will receive notices and be asked to meet with the school when your child's absences start to add up.
-  **TOO MANY UNEXCUSED ABSENCES WILL BE REFERRED.**
If unexcused absences continue, the case will be referred to attendance officers or local authorities.
-  **GOOD ATTENDANCE HELPS SCHOLARS SUCCEED!**
Being in school every day helps your child learn, stay on track, and have more opportunities.
-  **AVOID EARLY CHECKOUTS.**
Scholars may not be checked out during the last 90 minutes of the school day.

WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE

-  **SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY.**
Every day counts! Good attendance starts at home.
-  **PLAN AHEAD.**
When possible, schedule appointments at times that reduce time away from school.
-  **TURN IN DOCTOR'S NOTES PROMPTLY.**
Notes must be turned in so absences can be excused.
-  **STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL.**
We are here to support you and help your child succeed.
-  **MAKE ATTENDANCE A PRIORITY.**
Your support today helps shape their tomorrow.

EARLY DISMISSAL CUTOFF TIMES

- Scholars must be present by the times below to be counted present for 66% of the school day.
-  **ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**
66% ATTENDANCE TIME: **12:17 P.M.**
EARLY DISMISSAL CUTOFF: **1:15 P.M.**
 -  **MIDDLE SCHOOLS**
66% ATTENDANCE TIME: **12:37 P.M.**
EARLY DISMISSAL CUTOFF: **1:30 P.M.**
 -  **HIGH SCHOOLS**
66% ATTENDANCE TIME: **1:02 P.M.**
EARLY DISMISSAL CUTOFF: **2:07 P.M.**

 **IMPORTANT:** These attendance requirements are established by Mississippi law and apply to every public school district in the state.

 **SAME LAW. SAME EXPECTATIONS. EVERY SCHOOL. EVERY SCHOLAR.**

PERSEVERANCE CONQUERS ALL.



Questions? Your child's school is here to help.
Please contact your child's school if you have questions or need support.

