

ATTENDANCE

Ala. Code §16-28-3 requires all children between the ages of 6 and 17 to attend school regularly. Each child who enrolls in a public school, whether or not the child is required by law to enroll, is subject to the Alabama school attendance and truancy laws. Parents having control over school-age children are responsible for their children's regular attendance and proper conduct. Failure to comply with the Compulsory School Attendance law requires the attendance coordinator to file a complaint in the Phenix City Family Court. All absences from school will be designated as either excused or unexcused. School-related absences, approved by the principal, will not count as an absence. Excuses for absences will be accepted within three school days of the student returning to school. Written excuses must be signed by the parent of the child. A written note from a parent will be accepted as an excuse for up to five days each semester or up to 10 days for the year. Further absences will require a note from a physician or court to be considered excused.

The following reasons will be accepted as excused absences:

- Personal illness
- Hospitalization
- Emergency
- Religious holidays
- Court subpoena
- Death in the immediate family
- Absence approved by the principal or Superintendent/designee (Exceptional or unusual circumstances may be considered)

All students who have used five or more days for parent notes for each school semester or ten days for the year will be required to submit an official statement from a court of competent jurisdiction or a physician explaining each absence for the rest of the year. Failure to provide an official statement from the courts or a physician will result in the absence being marked as unexcused.

Phenix City Schools will accept up to five (5) days of excused absence if either military parent is experiencing a deployment of active duty.

The conditions under which these absences may be excused are:

- Absence is pre-approved
- Student is in good standing
- Student has a prior record of good attendance
- Missed work is completed and returned in a timely fashion
- Absence is not during standardized testing dates

Excessive Unexcused Absences

The principal has the final authority at the school building level to make decisions regarding excessive unexcused absences in the category listed below:

- Students under age 6 who accumulate more than 10 unexcused absences during a single semester may be withdrawn from school. Parents will be notified of the pending withdrawal and given one week to appear before the principal or attendance committee