

## Attendance/Truancy Information Sheet

- Every parent, guardian or other person residing in the school system is required either to enroll and send children in their care and charge between their sixth and sixteenth birthdays to a public or private school or to provide a home study program for these children which meet the requirements set forth in law, unless the child is specifically exempt. The Board of Education shall assure that all children between their sixth and sixteenth birthdays be enrolled in the public schools in the district in which they reside unless they are enrolled in a private school or home study program. Specific exemptions from the requirements of the compulsory school attendance law are provided in State Board Policies JB, JBD, O.C.G.A. 20-2-693, O.C.G.A. 20-2-690.1, and O.C.G.A. 20-2-692.
- The parent who fails to comply with mandatory attendance requirements may be found guilty of a misdemeanor. Each days' absence from school in violation of said law, after the child's school notifies the parent, guardian or other person who has control or charge of a child of 5 unexcused days of absence for such child shall constitute a separate offense. Upon conviction, the parent may be fined not less than \$25, nor more than \$100, imprisoned for 30 days, required to do community service, or any combination of such penalties. *See Code Section 20-2-690.1(c).* **A complaint will be filed in the appropriate court on the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) unexcused absence and on each unexcused absence from that point forward.**
- A child who fails to comply with mandatory attendance requirements may be adjudicated unruly and either placed on probation, required to undergo a psychiatric or other mental health evaluation, placed on supervised or unsupervised abeyance, committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice, or ordered to do community service. As a general rule, the Court is not permitted to detain such a child in restrictive custody. If a child is found to have violated the mandatory attendance laws, the Court will enter a separate protective order requiring the parent to insure the child's future compliance with the law at the risk of being held in contempt, fined and/or imprisoned.  
*See Code Section 15-11-67.*
- Absences will be classified as excused or unexcused. Excused absences are those due to emergencies such as illness, death in the family, or other extreme circumstances. Excused absences are religious holidays, service as a page in the General Assembly, school-sponsored activities, and voter registration (Policy JBD). Unexcused absences are all failures to attend school without proper documentation.
- **Upon returning to school, students must bring documentation stating the date and reason for absence with the signature of a parent/guardian, doctor, dentist, or judge. The student and/or parent have the responsibility to present the written excuse within three (3) school days of the student's return to school. At each school the attendance clerk will receive and file excuses. The principal will resolve any question in determining whether an absence is excused or unexcused.**
- The school administration may require an excuse from a doctor, dentist, health center, or court after five (5) consecutive absences, or twelve (12) excused absences related to health, except for mitigating circumstances such as a death in the family.
- For students in any grade 1-12, students are absent from school if not present for at least half of the instructional time required at each grade level (grades 1-3, 135 minutes of 270; grades 4-5, 150 minutes of 300; grades 6-12, 165 minutes of 330).
- A student must be enrolled a minimum of 80 days per semester (including days transferred from other schools) to receive Carnegie unit credit for a course. A student who misses one-half or more of a class period will be counted absent for that class.
- Excused and unexcused absences will result in the loss of full credit for class participation unless students arrange to make up the work within 3 school days of returning to school. The student must complete make-up work and tests within a reasonable amount of time.
- **Repeated absences affect a student's ability to obtain a Georgia Drivers license and may result in the license being revoked.**
- School driving privileges may be revoked for 5 unexcused absences or 10 unexcused tardies.
- The Coweta County School System may file a juvenile complaint for excessive tardies and requests for early dismissals. Students with more than 10 tardies and/or early dismissals MAY NOT be eligible for the Perfect Attendance Awards at the end of the school year. Students may be required to serve in before or after school detention or lunch detention for excessive tardies.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of students 10 years of age or older \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Revised 2-3-11