



# Attendance Newsletter

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## GEORGIA COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW

All states require children of certain age ranges to attend school or receive some type of formal education, whether it's through public school, private school, homeschool, or some other venue. Georgia compulsory education laws require children between the ages of 6 and 16 to attend school, with penalties including fines and/or prison (applicable to parents) for noncompliance.

While most school-age children go to public school, with a much smaller component enrolled in private school, some parents opt for homeschooling instead. In fact, the statute addressing Georgia's compulsory education laws also includes details about home study programs. For instance, home study (or home school) programs must meet certain requirements, such as keeping regular attendance records and making sure students receive an education comparable to that offered by a Georgia public school.

Any child who is found away from home and not in school (truant) may be placed in the temporary custody of a peace officer. Truant children also may be subject to processing by a juvenile court. If a child who has aged-out of the compulsory education requirements decides to withdraw from school, he or she first will need the written permission of a parent or legal guardian.

## LEY DE ASISTENCIA OBLIGATORIA PARA LAS ESCUELAS DE GA

Todos los estados requieren que los niños de ciertos rangos de edad asistan a la escuela o reciban algún tipo de educación formal, ya sea a través de la escuela pública, escuela privada, escuela en casa o algún otro lugar. Las leyes de educación obligatoria de Georgia exigen que los niños de entre seis y 16 años asistan a la escuela, con sanciones que incluyen multas y / o prisión (aplicable a los padres) por incumplimiento. Mientras que la mayoría de los niños en edad escolar van a la escuela pública, con un componente mucho más pequeño matriculado en la escuela privada, algunos padres optan por la educación en casa en su

lugar. De hecho, el estatuto que aborda las leyes de educación obligatoria de Georgia también incluye detalles sobre programas de estudio en el hogar. Por ejemplo, los programas de estudios en el hogar (o en la escuela en el hogar) deben cumplir con ciertos requisitos, como mantener registros de asistencia regulares y asegurarse de que los estudiantes reciban una educación comparable a la ofrecida por una escuela pública de Georgia. Cualquier niño que se encuentre fuera de casa y no en la escuela (ausente) puede ser colocado bajo la custodia temporal de un oficial de la paz. Los niños truhanes también pueden ser procesados por un tribunal de menores. Si un niño que ha cumplido los requisitos de educación obligatoria decide retirarse de la escuela, primero necesitará el permiso por escrito de un padre o tutor legal.

## Code of Student Conduct and School and Discipline

### Attendance Policy

#### Rule 10

Students who are absent from school are required to bring a written excuse for the absence their first day back at school.

### Excused Absence

- A. Personal illness.
- B. Family death and funeral.
- C. Medical or dental appointments that cannot be scheduled outside school hours.
- D. Attendance of non-school activities or functions authorized by the Superintendent or designee.
- E. Special and recognized religious holidays observed by the student's faith.
- F. Mandate or order of government agency.
- G. Extreme circumstances that cannot be resolved outside school hours; parent or guardian must request and receive approval from the Principal or designated representative.
- H. Any other absence not explicitly defined herein, but deemed by the local school board of education to have merit based on the circumstances.

### **Unexcused Absence**

Any absence not covered in (A)-(G) above, shall be declared unexcused. It is the policy of the Richmond County Board of Education that no unexcused absences are allowed.

If parents keep their child out for other reasons outside of (A)-(G), such absence shall be deemed unlawful and therefore unexcused.

For any absence beyond (or after) 5, the parent shall be required to provide an official physician's note or another excuse from an acceptable or official third party justifying the absence.

### **Truant**

Truant is defined as any child who has more than 5 days of unexcused absences during the academic year.

### **Full School Day**

For a student to be marked present for a full school day, a student must be in attendance for a one half or more of the school day (or at least half of the school day). However, a student will not be recognized for perfect attendance after (10) tardies.

### **Full Day Attendance Required**

A student who wishes to leave school early must bring a written request to school stating the reason for early dismissal. Leaving school for unauthorized purposes before the end of the instructional (or school) day will be counted as a tardy. Parents should not pick up students before the end of the school day except where there is a legitimate emergency.

Students are expected to be in school all day unless they are ill. Georgia State law only recognizes absences due to illness, religious holidays, medical or legal appointments, and funerals in the family. Parents have the right to present reasons they believe are justifiable to the Principal for consideration of other absences.

### **Attendance Expectations**

Students are expected to be in school all day unless they are ill. Georgia State law only recognizes absences due to illness, religious holidays, medical or legal appointments, and funerals in the family. Parents have the right to present reasons they believe are justifiable to the Principal for consideration of other absences.

All absences require a written note from parents/guardians stating the reason for the absence. Emailed notes will not be accepted. A note without a reason and date of absence is unexcused. The note must include the student's full name, reason for absence, date(s) of absence, and parent/guardian signature.

In order to comply with district regulations and state law, when a student has 10 unexcused absences in one month or ten unexcused absences in one year, Richmond County administrators will petition the Juvenile Court System to seek mandatory attendance by a student. An unexcused absence is defined as any unauthorized absence from school. Examples include, but are not limited to:

1. Hair appointments
2. Oversleeping
3. Shopping
4. Missing the bus
5. Concerts
6. Babysitting
7. Failure to obtain private transportation to school
8. Mechanical problem
9. Failure to obtain leave of Absence request for absences

### **Attendance Tips for Parents**

1. Let Children Know that Good Attendance Is Important.
2. Establish a Routine.
3. Show Interest in Student's Activities.
4. Keep Open Lines of Communication with your Children, Teacher, Principal and School Attendance Office.
5. Help your child understand the state laws and school attendance policies.
6. Do not let your child persuade you into making an excuse for him/her. Don't give up. Reward good behavior and take it one day at a time.

**Scan the QR code below for more information on attendance tips for parents.**

