

ABSENCES AND ATTENDANCE

To be in compliance with Georgia law (O. C. G. A. 20-2-690.1) and the Appling County School Attendance Protocol within 15 days of becoming a new resident of Appling County (or by the start date of school if subsequent to change in residency), a Parent/ Guardian or other person in control or charge of any child ages 6 to 16 yrs. old must enroll and send the child to school;

Parents who allow their child age 6 to 16 to have 6 unexcused absences in any school year violate school attendance law. It is the responsibility of the School System to take action to prevent students from missing too many days. In cases of excessive absences, it is mandatory that school officials file a report with the Magistrate Court or Department of Juvenile Justice.

Absences: Excused absences have been defined by the State Board of Education as the following:

1. Personal illness
2. Serious illness or death in the family
3. Recognized religious holidays of the student's particular faith
4. As a result of an order from a government agency
5. Conditions rendering school attendance impossible or hazardous to the safety of the student
6. A student, whose parent or legal guardian is in the military service in the armed forces of the United States or National Guard, and the parent or legal guardian has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, may request a maximum of five excused school days per school year in order to visit with the parent prior to the parent's deployment or during a parent's leave. Parents must discuss the request with the building level administrator at least 72 hours in advance of absences.

Students must turn in a written excuse stating the date and reason for the absence signed by his/her parent or guardian. **All excuses must be submitted within three (3) days after the student returns to school following an absence to be considered for validation as an excused day. Any excuses submitted after the three (3) day period will be received by the school, but will not be changed to excused.** The school principal has the authority to determine if an absence is excused or unexcused. School principals may require specific and/or additional documentation to justify an absence as excused. Schools will establish procedures for maintaining accurate attendance records and excuses/documentation for the school year.