



Buford City Schools

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Dear Parents,

Attendance at school is an important part of student success and achievement. A pattern of absences may put a student at risk of not achieving skills for their grade level and courses. Certain absences are considered to be excused according to state guidelines. Excused absences include:

- Personal illness or attendance in school endangering a student's health or the health of others
- A serious illness or death in a student's immediate family necessitating absence from school
- A court order or an order by a government agency, including pre-induction physical examination for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school
- Observing religious holidays, necessitating absence from school
- Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety
- Serving as a page in the Georgia General Assembly
- A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard, and such 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, shall be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of five school days per school year, for the day or days missed from school to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian prior to such parent's or legal guardian's deployment or during such parent's or legal guardian's leave. Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require a local school system to revise any policies relating to maximum number of excused and unexcused absences for any purposes.

Please remember that if your student is absent from school, you need to send a written note to the school stating the reason for his/her absence. Should the reason be one noted above, your child's absence will be marked excused.

Federal and state guidelines focus on improving student attendance at the school level and for individual students. The *No Child Left Behind* federal law uses a schools' attendance rate, as well as students' academic achievement, as a measure to evaluate schools. In addition, a new state truancy law (O.C.G.A. §20-2-690.2) has defined truant as "any child subject to compulsory school attendance who during the school calendar year has more than 5 days of unexcused absences." It also ties attendance to a student's driving privileges.

It is important for our parents to be aware of attendance requirements. We ask that you read Buford City Schools' Student Handbook, which outlines attendance expectations. In addition, our teachers and school leadership will communicate with you regularly on school attendance issues.

Thank you in advance for your support of your student's academic achievement. Your child's regular attendance at school can and does make a difference.