

ATTENDANCE

Buford City Schools require students to be in attendance in accordance with requirements of the compulsory attendance law. Absences shall be considered excused only if they comply with legal requirements established by the State of Georgia and the State Board of Education.

- ✍ Georgia State Law O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-690.1 and the Georgia Department of Education State Attendance Rule 160-5-1-.10 define “Truant” as “*any child subject to compulsory attendance who during the school calendar year has more than five days of unexcused absences*”.
- ✍ Under Ga. Law §20-2-690.1, it is mandatory for a parent to ensure that their child(ren) attend school and is punishable by fine not to exceed \$100.00, imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, community service, or any combination of the penalties. Each day’s absence from school in violation of this law shall constitute a separate offense. Other possible consequences and penalties for failing to comply could include but not limited to child/youth placed on juvenile probation, child/youth deprived from home, youth serve time at the Youth Detention Center, and/or possible denial or suspension of a driver’s license for a student.
- ✍ The Georgia Department of Education State Attendance Rule 160-5-1-.10 and section JB of the Buford City Schools Board of Education Policy states that students will be excused from school under the following circumstances, as a minimum,

1. Personal illness or attendance in school endangering a student’s health or the health of others.
2. A serious illness or death in a student’s immediate family necessitating absence from school.
3. A court order or an order by a governmental agency, including pre-induction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school.
4. Observing religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.
5. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.
6. A period not to exceed one day is allowed, at the discretion of the local unit of administration, for registering to vote or voting in a public election.
7. Students will be counted present when they are serving as pages of the Georgia General Assembly.

In addition, appropriate medical documentation will be required following the tenth absence for the purpose of validating the absence as an excused absence.

- ✍ Students are required to be in attendance on each day that school is in session. When a child is absent from school, he or she must be marked absent in the official attendance register maintained by the classroom teacher. Your child’s school is required to contact you **EVERY TIME** that your child is absent.

- ✍ When a student is absent from school, the parent/legal guardian must send a written note to the school upon the student's return from the absence, acknowledging each date of absence. *This note is required, even if the parent/legal guardian calls the school to inform the principal or teacher of the absence.* The review of this note by the school will determine whether the absence is a valid (excused) absence according to the criteria noted above, or whether the absence is unexcused and considered to be a truant absence.

Parent Responsibilities for Good Student Attendance

Make school attendance a high priority in your home!

Every day is important...from the first day of school to the last day of school!

> At home:

- Discuss the importance of daily attendance and academic achievement with your children.
- Get your child to school on time.
- Arrange for transportation or child care as needed.
- Ensure that your child has school supplies, uniforms (if required), etc.

> Maintain good communication with the school and teacher(s)

- Provide updated and accurate emergency contact information.
- Make sure your child's medical/immunization records are up to date.
- Monitor your child's daily school attendance.
- Meet with your child's teacher on a regular basis
- Sign and return all contracts and letters from the school in a timely manner.
- Attend parent/teacher/student conferences as needed.

> Handle absences responsibly

- Know the *Georgia School Code's* legitimate reasons for absence (illness, family emergency, death in their immediate family, observance of religious holiday, certain circumstances of concern to the parents, other situations beyond the control of the student).
- Call the school within 30 minutes of start time if your child is going to be absent.
- Send a note that briefly explains the absence, when your child returns to school.

> Understand and follow the Buford City School attendance policy

- Attend truancy intervention panel if no other remediation efforts have been successful.
- Assist your child in his/her compliance with the panel's recommendation.

> Play an active role in the education of your child

- Know what is going on in your child's life at school and elsewhere
- Alert school personnel if you become aware of problems in the school or problems that are otherwise out of your immediate control.