

BOARD POLICY
Student Attendance

Descriptor Term: JB
Date: XXXXXX XX, 2023

The Bibb County Board of Education ("Board") believes that punctual and regular attendance is important. Students should participate in the experiences, discussions, activities, and special projects integral to the learning process. Regular attendance in school is the joint responsibility of the student and his/her parents or guardians.

A. Student Attendance

In responding to student attendance issues, the Bibb County School District ("District") will comply with all requirements of state law, State Board of Education Rule, Board Policy and attendance protocol developed by the District.

B. Excused Absences

It is the policy of the Board to excuse students from school for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness or attendance in school that endangers 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. The observance of religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.
5. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.
6. A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the U.S. armed forces or National Guard, and such parent has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting will be granted up to 5 days of excused absences per school year to visit with his or her parent prior to the parent's deployment or during the parent's leave.
7. The Board authorizes high school administration to allow eligible students a period not to exceed one day for registering to vote or voting in a public election.
8. Students will be counted present when they are serving as pages of the Georgia General Assembly.
9. Students in foster care will be counted present when they attend court proceedings related to their foster care.

School administration may in certain circumstances require students to present appropriate medical or other documentation upon return to school for the purpose of validating that absences are excused.

C. Grades and Absences

Final course grades of students will not be penalized because of absences if the following conditions are met:

1. Absences are validated for excusable reasons; and
2. Make up work for excused absences was completed satisfactorily.

D. Policies and Procedures to Reduce Unexcused Absences: Notification

1. The District requires its schools to provide to the parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of each student enrolled in school, a written summary of possible consequences and penalties for failing to comply with compulsory attendance. This statement will be provided by September 1 of each school year or within 30 school days of a student's enrollment in the District. The parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of such a student will be asked to sign a statement indicating receipt of such written statement of possible consequences and penalties. In addition, students aged ten or older by September 1 must sign a statement indicating receipt of written statement of possible consequences from non-compliance to the local board policy; and
2. The District will notify the parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of the student when such student has five unexcused absences. The notice will outline the penalty and consequences of such absences and that each subsequent absence will constitute a separate offense. After two reasonable attempts to notify the parent, guardian, or other person who has charge of the student, the District will send written notice via first class mail or certified mail, return receipt requested. Prior to any action to initiate court proceeding to impose a penalty on a parent, guardian, or other person for failure to abide by compulsory attendance laws, the District will notify such person by certified mail, return receipt requested.
3. Students will be notified through the student codes of conduct of the definition of truancy and a summary of possible consequences and penalties for truancy, including possible dispositions for children in need of services through the juvenile court system and the possible denial of or suspension of a driver's permit or license.