

The Calhoun County School System



'School Attendance Initiative'

Overview

The State Board of Education at its June 13, 2002 meeting approved the “Student Attendance Indicator” to be used by the Governor’s Office of Education Accountability to rank Georgia schools based on student attendance. In addition, new standards for promotion and retention of students have increased the importance of children being in school every day possible. The Georgia State Legislature passed House Bill 1190 in the Spring 2004 legislative session raising attendance standards and tightening attendance laws and responsibilities requiring every school system in the state of Georgia to adopt a written attendance protocol by June 1, 2005.

The goals of the School Attendance Initiative include a review of cases of chronic absenteeism, both excused and unexcused, and excessive tardies and early dismissals. An Attendance Support Team (AST) at each school level, elementary, middle and high, will determine contributing factors to poor school attendance, and offer assistance to the family, if appropriate. The process involves monitoring excessive absences, tardies or home visits, and/or appearances before the AST. If parents are asked to appear before the AST, a contract between the school and the parent or student can be drafted.

In the event changes do not occur within a reasonable time, a referral will be made to the Calhoun County Juvenile Court of Superior Court for failure to comply with the States Compulsory Attendance Law, 20-2-690.1.

The Calhoun County School System is very sympathetic to the fact that many students are absent due to illness or other legitimate causes. These are not the students that cause the school system concern. It is those students or, in some cases, parents who do not appear to value an education that we are targeting. It is not the intent of this initiative to cause a hardship for parents; only to assist them in making sure regular school attendance is a priority. **The Calhoun County School System is dedicated to working with parents to improve student attendance.** Our hope is that the implementation of the ‘School Attendance Initiative’ will result in system-wide improvement in regards to attendance.

2018-19 Guidelines

Absences

***3 Unexcused or 5 Excused Absences**

4 Unexcused or 6 Excused Absences

5 Unexcused or 7 Excused Absences

6 Unexcused or 8 Total Absences

****Phone Call by School Representative
Attendance Letter
**School Representative meets with parent
School Attendance Support Team
Referral To Committee**

Tardies and Early Dismissals

6 Tardies or Early Dismissals

7 Tardies or Early Dismissals

8 Tardies or Early Dismissals

9 Tardies or Early Dismissals

****Phone Call by School Representative
Attendance Letter
**School Representative meets with parent
Attendance Support Team
Referral**

Meetings with the Attendance Support Team may result in an ‘Attendance Contract’ if the AST deems it necessary. The contract is reviewed with parent and/or student. All parties sign the contract. This meeting is followed with the on going monitoring of the student’s attendance. A broken contract may result in a court referral. Failure to sign the contract results in a court referral. Your child can be charged as ‘unruly.’

***Amended 5-17-07 to include:**

A student with a past history of excessive absences or a previous attendance contract on the first unexcused absence or unexcused tardy of the new school year will be issued an attendance contract after which protocol as previously written will be followed.

****Amended 9-13-12**

Designated who will make the calls to parents. Changed the “Parent Involvement Coordinator Visit” to “School Representative will Meet with the Parent.”

Calhoun County Board of Education

P. O. Box 32

Morgan, GA 39866

229-849-2765

Dear Parents

As you are aware, one of the most important factors in doing well academically is maintaining good attendance. Students who are absent a lot or leave school early frequently may sometimes have problems keeping up with their assignments. This can ultimately result in poor performance throughout the year. I would like to encourage each of you to be sure your child attends school every day unless he or she is sick or there is an unavoidable appointment.

To be counted present for the day a student must be at school for one half of the instructional day. If a child comes in late, they must arrive at school in sufficient time in order to insure that one half a day of instruction is received.

If your child is sick and must be picked up prior to fulfilling the required time, they will be counted absent. Please take this attendance information into consideration as you are scheduling things like dental appointments, etc. so that your child will not be counted absent if at all possible. Please contact the school if at all possible when your child is absent.

Thank you for your help in making sure all of our students are present so they are able to receive the best education possible.

Sincerely,

Attendance Support Team Referral

Student _____

School _____

Address _____

Parent or Guardian _____

Phone (please include all numbers) _____

Attendance Information:

Excused Absences _____ **Unexcused Absences** _____

Excused Tardies _____ **Unexcused Tardies** _____

Excused Early Dismissals _____ **Unexcused Early Dismissals** _____

School Action _____

Phone Call – Date _____ **Time** _____

Person Contacted _____

Attendance Letter – Date Sent _____ (Please attach mail receipt if available)

Social Worker Referral – Referral Date _____ (Please attach Copy of letter)