

Jeff Davis County Student Attendance Protocol

Student attendance continues to be a major factor in our school system's success. Both schools and community can be proud of our remarkable attendance percentages. Many thanks to our students, parents, school personnel, and community members who have helped make student attendance in the Jeff Davis County School System a continuous success. For the 2019-2020 school years, we will follow the student attendance protocol procedures listed below. A copy of these procedures is in your child's student handbook as well as on the school website. Please remember that when your child is absent, you should send an excuse within three school days of the absence to prevent the absence from being unexcused. Please contact Chris Campbell, Attendance Director at 912-375-5048 for guidance or assistance with attendance.

Student Attendance Protocol Procedures will be as follows:

1. Student receives 3 unexcused absences → a letter is sent requesting a meeting;
2. Student receives 5 unexcused absences → a letter is sent home explaining potential court procedures;
3. Student receives 6 unexcused absences → a complaint may be filed in court concerning children 6 years of age through the age of 16 and/or their parents; or
4. Student receives a total of 10 unexcused absences → a doctor's excuse may be required by the school principal.

Reasons for excused absences:

1. Personal illness or attendance in school that endangers a student's health or the health of others (with proper verification, a student may be eligible for hospital/homebound instruction as outlined in State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2.31 Hospital/ Homebound Instruction);
2. A serious illness or death in the student's immediate family (mother, father, sibling, grandparent) 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. Observance of religious holidays, necessitating absence from school;
5. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to the student's health or safety;
6. Registering to vote or voting in a public election not to exceed 1 day; or
7. 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. (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-692.1) *

A student will be counted present when serving as a page for the Georgia General Assembly. Foster care students are to be counted present at school when attending court proceedings related to the student's foster care. Consequences for Violation of School Attendance Law: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.1 requires every parent, guardian, or other person residing within this state having control or charge of any child or children between their sixth and sixteenth birthdays to enroll and send such child or children to a public school, a private school, or a home study program that meets the requirements for a public school, a private school, or a home study program. Any parent, guardian, or other person residing in this state who has control or charge of any child or children and who shall violate this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine not less than \$55.00 and not greater than \$150.00, imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, community service, or any combination of such penalties, at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction.

Each day's absence from school in violation of this part after the child's school system notifies the parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of a child of five unexcused days of absence for a child shall constitute a separate offense. * All children enrolled for 20 school days or more in the public schools of this state prior to their seventh birthday shall be subject to the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education relating to compulsory school attendance (Refer to Eligibility for Enrollment Law § O.C.G.A. 20-2-150). These children and their "parents" are susceptible to the Jeff Davis County Student Attendance Protocol.

Please view the Compulsory Attendance Notice below. This notice will be sent home with students in the beginning of the school year in an effort to explain our policy and prevent violation of the Compulsory Attendance Law. O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.1



COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE NOTICE

"... a relentless pursuit of excellence"

Pursuant to state law O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.1, each parent and student shall receive notice of the **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW**. Each parent, guardian or person having control or charge of any child between the ages of 6 and 16 are required to enroll and send said child to a public school, private school or any home study program that meets the requirements for public school, private school or any home study program.

Consequences & Penalties for Failure to Comply with the Compulsory School Attendance Law

- 1) Any parent, guardian or person who has control or charge of children and violates the Compulsory Attendance Law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Upon conviction, the parent, guardian or person having control or charge of a child or children shall be subject to a fine not less than \$55.00 and not greater than \$150.00, imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, community service or any combination of the penalties at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction.
- 2) Each day absent from school in excess of five (5) unexcused days of absences after notice has been given to the parent, guardian or person having control or charge of a child or children, shall constitute a separate offense of Georgia's Compulsory School Attendance Law.
- 3) After two reasonable attempts to notify the parent, guardian or person having control or charge of a child or children of five (5) unexcused absences without response, the school system shall send a notice to the parent, guardian or person having control or charge of a child or children by certified mail, return receipt requested, or first class mail.

IT IS REQUIRED THAT YOU SIGN, DATE, & RETURN THIS ACKNOWLEDGMENT. The school shall retain a signed copy of this notice through the end of the school year. All students over the age of ten (10) are required to sign this acknowledgement. ***The placement of your signature below acknowledges that you have received and reviewed the Compulsory School Attendance Law.***

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature *(Required for students ages 10+)*

Date