



Calhoun City Schools

Attendance Policy
School Year: 23-24

School Attendance: It's the LAW!

Based on Georgia's Compulsory Attendance Law (20-2-690.1) and State Board of Education Rule (JB), any child between the ages of 6 and 16 who during the school calendar year has more than five days of unexcused absences from school will be considered truant.

Penalties

The legal penalties and consequences for truancy include referral to Juvenile Court of parents, guardians, or custodians for Educational Deprivation and/or referral of juveniles for Children In Need of Services

Any parent, guardian, or other person residing in this state who has control or charge of a child or children and who violates the Mandatory Attendance Code section of Georgia law, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$25.00 and not greater than \$100.00, imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, community service, or any combination of such penalties per absence. Each day's absence from school is a violation of this provision and shall constitute a separate offense.

If convicted of truancy, juveniles may face severe penalties under the Juvenile Code of the State of Georgia.

Key Points to Know

Calhoun City Schools Attendance Policy (Kindergarten-12th):

- A parent or medical note should be sent to the school stating the reason for the absence within 5 school days of the student's return to school. Absences will not be changed from “unexcused” to “excused” after that time unless medical documentation is provided.
 - Up to 7 absences a year can be excused with a parent note/email. Only medical notes will be accepted thereafter.
 - After 5 unexcused absences, a student is considered to be truant from school by law.
 - CCS procedures for truancy are as follows:
 - 5 unexcused absences - parent notified by letter to the address on file as required by law.
 - 7 or more unexcused absences - referral to school social worker. School Social Worker may hold an attendance review meeting and/or make a home visit.
 - 10 or more unexcused absences -SSW may refer to the Truancy Treatment Team (TTT).
 - Additional unexcused absences following TTT - a referral may be made to Juvenile Court for Educational Deprivation or Children in Need of Services (CHINS).
 - Students who have been referred to TTT in previous years may be referred directly to Juvenile Court.
 - Tardies/Early Check outs- Once a student has reached 20 unexcused tardies/early check-outs, a referral may be made to the Truancy Treatment Team (TTT) or juvenile court taking into consideration the student’s attendance history.
- Discipline consequences?**

Pre-K Attendance Policy

- Pre-K does not fall under the Georgia's Compulsory school attendance law
- Pre-K students are expected to adhere to CCS attendance guidelines and guidelines provided by GaDECAL (Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning)/Bright From the Start.
- The following attendance issues will be formally documented:
 - Absent more than two days per month without medical or other reasonable explanation
 - Late arrival more than once per week
 - Early departure more than once a week
 - Late pick up more than once per week when child is not enrolled in extended day
 - Documented attendance pattern(s), e.g., child is late every Monday or absent every Tuesday or leaves early every Friday
- If chronic absenteeism or tardiness is not resolved through parent contact and documented interventions, a referral will be made to Bright From the Start for Pre-K disenrollment consideration.

REMEMBER

Calhoun City Schools Attendance Policy can be found in the parent handbook at www.calhounschools.org

Calhoun Early Learning Academy (K): celaattendance@calhounschools.org **Tardy after: 7:30 am**

Calhoun Primary School (1st-3rd): cpsattendance@calhounschools.org **Tardy after: 8:15 am**

Calhoun Elementary School (4th-6th): cesattendance@calhounschools.org **Tardy after: 8:15 am**

Calhoun Middle School (7th-8th): cmsattendance@calhounschools.org **Tardy after: 8:45 am**

Calhoun High School (9th-12th): chsattendance@calhounschools.org **Tardy after: 8:45 am**

Questions or need help with your student's attendance?

Contact your School Social Worker or Family Engagement Coordinator