

Dade County School System

Davis Elem 657-6300 ♦ Dade Elem 657-6165
Dade Middle 657-6491 ♦ Dade High 657-7517

August 28, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Georgia State Board of Education sets yearly guidelines for each school district in order to meet state standards. Attendance is a critical factor in this process. Your family's efforts contribute greatly to the Dade County School System's ability to meet this state requirement. The guidelines below will go into effect, September 8, 2009.

ABSENCES:

Only five days absence from school can be designated and accepted as "parent excused" throughout the school year. Medical documentation is accepted throughout the school year, as is needed to meet the child's individual needs. Since school attendance is critical in the education of every student, the Dade County Board of Education has established an attendance policy that complies with Georgia state law for all students 6 through 15 years of age.

- When a student has accumulated ***three unexcused absences***, an informational letter will be sent to explain the attendance policies.
- When a student has accumulated ***five parent notes***, an informational letter will be sent informing them that five designated "parent excused" days absences from school have been accumulated.
- When a student has accumulated ***five unexcused absences***, the Dade County School System will contact the parent/guardian to set up a meeting with the Truancy Treatment Team (**Elementary and Middle School**).
- When a student has accumulated ***five unexcused absences***, the Dade County School System will contact the parent/guardian to set up a meeting with the Juvenile Truancy Court (**High School**).
- If the Truancy Treatment Team contract is not followed and the student has another unexcused absence, the student and parent/guardian will be referred to the Juvenile Truancy Court.
- If the parent/guardian refuses to participate in the Juvenile Truancy Court, the case will be transferred to the regular Superior / Juvenile Court system.

TARDIES:

- When a student has accumulated ***five unexcused tardies /unexcused early check-outs*** an informational letter will be sent to explain the attendance policies.
- When a student has accumulated ***eight unexcused tardies /unexcused early check-outs*** an informational letter will be sent and a school representative will contact the parent/guardian explaining the attendance policies.
- When a student has accumulated ***ten unexcused tardies /unexcused early check-outs*** the Dade County School System will contact the parent/guardian to set up a meeting with the Truancy Treatment Team
- If the Truancy Treatment Team guidelines are not followed and the student accumulates additional ***unexcused tardies /unexcused early check-outs*** the student and parent/guardian will be referred to the Juvenile Truancy Court.

For more information or questions, call the Dade County School System at 706-657-4361 or visit www.dadecountyschools.org.