

McIntosh County Schools require students to be in attendance in accordance with requirements of the compulsory school attendance law. Attendance at school is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and child. Any child subject to compulsory attendance, who during the calendar year has more than five days of unexcused absences, is considered truant. School days missed as a result of an out of school suspension shall not count as unexcused days for the purpose of determining student truancy. The school is responsible for informing the parent/guardian of the child's absence and/or truancy. After a student accumulates five days of unexcused absences and is deemed to be truant, and after required parent and student notification, the System Attendance Office or social worker may file charges in Juvenile and/or State Court against the student and/or the parent.

The professional personnel staff has the responsibility to enforce Georgia's compulsory attendance law ([O.C.G.A.20-2-690.1](#)) applying to children between the ages of six and sixteen, which states that students may not have more than five unexcused absences per school year and compels the school system to notify the parent or guardian of consequences and penalties for violating the compulsory attendance law.

It is the policy of the McIntosh County Board of Education that students must attend school each day, unless the student is absent due to one or more of the reasons specified in law and State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.10 .

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 period not to exceed one day for registering to vote or voting in a public election.
7. 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.

8. Any emergency or set of circumstances which, in the judgment of a building administrator, constitutes just and sufficient cause for an excused absence from school.

Students shall be counted present when they are serving as pages of the Georgia General Assembly and/or while representing the school in an activity approved by the school and/or the McIntosh County Board of Education. Students in foster care shall be counted present when attending court proceedings relating to their foster care.

All approved School Sponsored Activities (SSA), up to 10, are considered as part of the school day and do not count against the student's classroom attendance or against the 10 unexcused absences. School attendance is required on the day of any extracurricular school activity in which the student wishes to participate. Individual exceptions to this rule may be appealed to the principal.

Any student who has more than seven (7) unexcused absences during the school year will be ineligible for participation in any extracurricular activities. Examples include, but are not limited to, athletic contests, fine arts productions and competitions, dances, prom, senior activities such as Grad Night, vocational competitions, literary competitions and band competitions.

The principal 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. The student must submit to the school documentation for the absence within 3 days after returning to school.

The Court may find the parent guilty of violation of the mandatory school attendance law and impose the penalties of that law. Ga. Law 20-2-690.1 states that "Any parent, guardian, or other person residing in this state who has control or charge of a 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 \$25.00 and not greater than \$100, 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."

Additionally, school officials are required by law (OCGA 20-2-701) to report to the State Board of Education, which in turn reports to the Department of Driver Services, any student fourteen (14) years of age or older who misses ten (10) unexcused days in the current or previous academic year or any student sixteen (16) years of age or older who has dropped out of school without graduating and has remained out of school for ten (10) consecutive days or a student who has been assigned to an alternative school as a result of a tribunal hearing or a waiver of a tribunal hearing from certain discipline offenses involving drugs, alcohol, or violence. This report may result in the denial, suspension or revocation of a student's learning permit or driver's license by the Department of Driver Services.

NOTE: *The State of Georgia has moved the Georgia Code. This new environment no longer allows us to link directly to the Georgia Code. For example enter 20-02-0211 in the search window and the Georgia Code will appear.*

Georgia Code	Description
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0699	Disposition of Children Taken Into Custody
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0700	Reports by Peace Officers to School Authorities
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0690.2	Establishment of Student Attendance Protocol Committee
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0691	Minimum Annual Attendance Required
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0696	Duties of Visiting Teachers and Attendance Officers
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0692.1	Excused Absence: Military Parent on Leave
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0692.2	Foster care student attending court proceedings related to that student's foster care to be credited as present at school
O.C.G.A. 21-02-0092	Student Teen Election Participant (STEP) program
O.C.G.A. 20-17-0002	Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0310	Student directory information; voter and selective service registration; pledge of allegiance
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0690.1	Mandatory education for children between 6 and 16
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0692	General Assembly pages granted excused absences
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0694	Administration/enforcement of attendance reqts.
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0695	Employing attendance officers in addition to visiting teachers
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0697	Cooperation of principals and teachers with attendance officers and visiting teachers
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0698	Assumption of temporary custody of truant children by peace officers
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0701	Mandatory reporting of truants to juvenile or other courts
O.C.G.A. 40-05-0022	Requirements for licensure; school attendance requirements
Rule 160-5-1-.02	School Day and School Year for Students and Employees
Rule 160-5-1-.10	Student Attendance

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.