

Marion County Schools Attendance Policy All absences must be covered by a note. Your child has three days once they return to school after an absence to present that note to the administration.

Tennessee Attendance Law
Under Tennessee Law (TCA 49-6-3009) any parent, guardian or any other person having control of a child or children and who violates the provisions under the Tennessee compulsory attendance law commits a Class C misdemeanor. For each day the child or children have missed school without the proper excuse a parent may be fined fifty (\$50.00) or thirty (30) days in jail for each separate day of unexcused absence. If the student is found to be guilty of truancy the judge may assess a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) or five (5) hours of community service against the student/parents/or legal guardian of children in grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12).
Court cost will also be assessed against the student or parent(s).

Homebound
Parents may request homebound instruction in cases where a student has a medical condition that may result in an absence of more than ten (10) consecutive days. A written order from the treating physician will be required and once the order is filed with the Director of Health Services the case will be reviewed for eligibility. Homebound students will receive three (3) hours of academic instruction per week.

Mrs. Lori Case RN
Director of Health Services

Consequences of Poor Attendance

- The student will lose their Drivers' License.
- The student is less likely to meet the state academic standards.
- The student is more likely to be retained
- The student may receive a grade of "0" for the work missed due to an unexcused absence.
- The Parent(s) is expected to meet with school administrators to discuss the attendance problem.
- A Truancy Board hearing may be scheduled to take action to address the problem before a formal petition is filed.
- A petition may be filed with the Juvenile Court against the student.
- Public service work may be assigned to the student.
- A court fine of \$50 or more plus court cost may be assessed in the case.
- A formal warrant may be filed against the parent for parental violation of the compulsory attendance law.
- A formal warrant may be filed against the parent for educational neglect.

Ways to Improve Your Child's Attendance

- Talk with your child about the importance of attending school regularly.
- Avoid scheduling family trips or doctor appointments during school hours.
- Make sure your child stays healthy by eating nutritious food and getting enough sleep and exercise.
- Don't accept excuses for why your child "must" miss or be late for school.
- Discuss with your child what happened at school each day.
- Support school rules and consequences for skipping class and being tardy
- Show your child why education is important. Give specific examples of how education helps people succeed.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND YOUR CHILD



**Marion County
Schools 204 Betsy
Pack Drive, Jasper, Tn.
37347**

**L. Mack Reeves or
Mel Kirkendoll
Office of Attendance**

*The Marion County School System believes attendance is essential for student achievement and success; therefore, students are expected and encouraged to be present each day school is in session.
Also, under the federal guidelines of "No Child Left Behind" attendance is considered a key factor in a student's academic success.*

Why does attendance matter?

Learning builds day by day. A student can't stay on top of his/her classwork if they are not in class to listen and take notes.

In some subjects he/she learns one step or process today and the next day another step is added. If he/she misses step 1 they are lost on step 2. This causes the student to become frustrated and learning will eventually become too difficult because they have missed so much instructional time.

Why do students skip school?

There are many reasons. It could be due to trouble at school or home, or personal problems.

Reasons may include:

- Gang or bullying problems that make students afraid to go to school
- Learning difficulties
- Domestic violence or parent's divorce
- Alcohol or drug use
- Falling in with the "wrong crowd"
- Teen pregnancy or parenthood
- Mental health problems
- Having to work to help support the family

Excuses a student may give:

- Classes are boring
- I don't like my teacher(s)
- I don't feel safe at school
- I feel stupid
- My job is more important
- I'm not learning anything

Teach your child that skipping school for any reason only creates more problems.

When your child skips school, take steps to deal with it right away.

Talk to your child. Try to find out why he or she doesn't want to go to school.

Talk to the school. Work together to find a solution. Let your child be involved in the process.

Take action:

For example, your child may need:

- More supervision
- After-school tutoring
- Counseling
- An evaluation to determine if he/she has a learning disability.
- Help with an alcohol or other drug problem.

Be sure to stay in close contact with the school to monitor your child's attendance.

The dangers of truancy.

An unexcused absence from school is called truancy. This includes skipping classes or entire days of school.

Truancy problems increase the risk of students dropping out of school. A high school student who drops out is more likely to:

- be unemployed
- earn less money than high school and college graduates
- be dependent on public assistance
- serve time in jail or prison

Make regular school attendance a top goal for your child.

Good reasons to miss school:

- A death in your family.
- A family emergency.
- When he/she is truly sick.

Good school attendance will help teachers provide a student with:

- a good education to be a productive citizen.
- the skills to be competitive for more opportunities to advance in the workplace.
- the skills needed to be a self-sufficient person.

Be a responsible parent.

Give your child the opportunity to:

- gain knowledge and skills for future success.
- develop new interests.
- develop positive relationships.
- learn how to manage time.
- learn how to set goals—and reach them.
- prepare for college, work or military.

Numbers don't lie.

Average weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers 25 years or over during 2005.

High school dropouts.....\$409

High school graduates.....\$583

Some college.....\$670

4 years of college or more....\$1013

Source: U.S. Department of Labor