



COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Mississippi law requires all individuals between the ages of six (6) and seventeen (17) to enroll in and attend school. This law also applies to all five-year-old students enrolled in a full-time public kindergarten program.

CONSEQUENCES

- Once a student has accumulated five (5) unlawful/unexcused days, the superintendent or his/her designee is required by law to report the student to the school attendance officer employed by the Mississippi Department of Education.
- The school attendance officer will contact the parent, guardian, or custodian regarding non-compliance with the law.
- Once a student has accumulated twelve (12) unexcused/unlawful absences, the school attendance officer will file a petition with the Youth Court or a Court of competent jurisdiction. Any parent, guardian, or custodian of such child is subject to a \$1000.00 fine, up to one year in jail, or both.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

- A court proceeding
- A medical or dental appointment (pre-approved by superintendent or his/her designee)
- A school activity
- Death or serious illness of a family member
- Illness (refer to district's school policy handbook)
- Isolation by the State Board of Health
- Other absences previously approved by the superintendent
- Religious observance (pre-approved by the superintendent or his/her designee)

Contact the school attendance officer in your county for additional information.