



TRUANCY INTERVENTION 2019

What is Truancy?

GEORGIA ATTENDANCE LAW

- o Compulsory Attendance Law Ages: “between 6th and 16th birthdays.” However, “if a child is under 6 and has attended more than 20 days in a public school, he/she is then subject to the compulsory attendance law.”
- o HCBE and the Magistrate/Juvenile court system have developed this slide show to avoid being seen by a judge for a child’s truancy. This is a Pre Trial Diversion Program, called Project Reconnect. This is meant to be educational, not punitive. If a parent/child fails to attend this class (Project Reconnect), they will be submitted and summoned to appear in the appropriate court. At court they will be subject to the judges decision which can include arrest and fines.
- o If after the parent/student attends the Project Reconnect Class, and continues to have unexcused absences, they will be summoned to the appropriate court.
- o Required days of instructions: 180 days

ABSENCES

o **TWO TYPES OF ABSENCES:**

o **EXCUSED**

o **UNEXCUSED**

EXCUSED ABSENCES

- o Excused absence are simply absences that are supported by a doctor or parent note.
- o Students may be excused from school:
- o Personally ill and attendance could endanger their health or the health of others
- o A serious illness or death in their immediate family
- o Mandated to be absent by order of the government
- o Military reasons

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- o Any unexcused absences are absences that are **not** supported by:
- o Doctor's note
- o Parent note
- o Court order
- o Military Approval
- o Religious

NOTES FOR ABSENCES

- o The doctor or parent note for the absences should be sent to the school on the first day, and **no later than the fifth day** the student returns to school.
- o The note should have the name of student, date, and the reason the student was absent. If note is not turned in within the five day window, the absence will be unexcused.
- o Make sure the note is an excusable reason.
(not Disney World or Family Reunion)
- o New for 2019-You can E-mail excuses to the school's clerical staff, and/or school messenger.

Attendance Protocol Basics

“3-5-8”

0 3 unexcused days

- 0 Parent is contacted by the school

0 5 unexcused days

- 0 A parent conference is scheduled and an Attendance Contract is signed.

0 8 unexcused days

- 0 Truancy charges may be filed in Magistrate and/or Juvenile Court depending on age of the student.

TARDY OR UNEXCUSED EARLY DISMISSALS

- o How does tardies and unexcused early dismissal affect students of all ages?
- o Tardiness affects you child's ability to be successful in his/her schoolwork.
- o Tardiness has a negative impact on your child and his/her teacher to get him/her "caught up" with what was missed.
- o Tardiness has a huge negative impact on other students who arrive on time, and who are then distracted while your child gets settled upon his/her arrival.
- o Tardiness can be considered defiance of the school attendance policy and can result in assigning the student consequences, such as detention, etc., (especially true for students in grades 7 through 12.)
- o Being on time teaches lifelong skills (jobs, appointments, etc.)

Driver's license: You will lose them if you: (N/A in 2019 for Truancy)

- Miss more than 10 unexcused days in any semester.
- Drop out of school without graduating or remain out of school for 10 consecutive days without contacting the school.
- Threaten, strike, or cause bodily harm to teachers or students.
- Possession or sale of drugs/alcohol on school property or in the community.
- Possession or use of a weapon on school property or in the community.
- Sexual offenses at school or in the community.
- This law is no longer in effect. However, it could come back at any time.

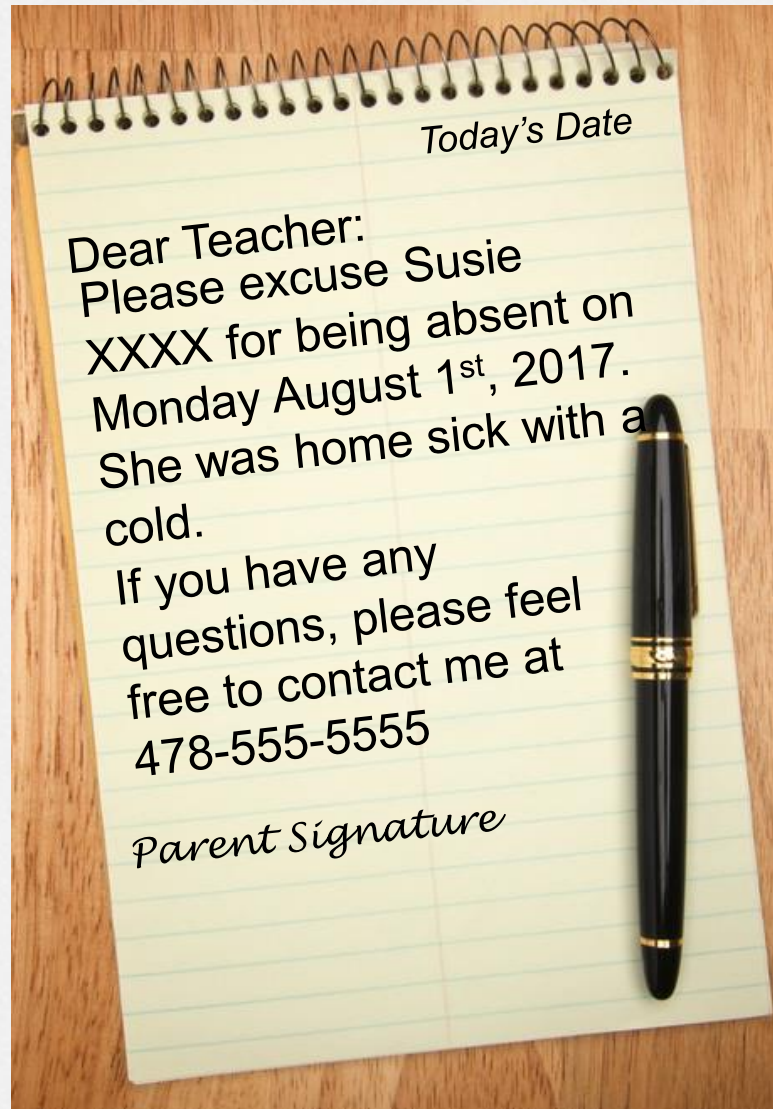


What can I do to prevent Truancy?

- Make sure your child brings a note or E-mail note for each absence. Notes are accepted up to five days after the student returns to school. The student handbook lists what is considered an acceptable excuse.
- Double check with the teacher/staff to make sure the child has turned in the note, or the parent can bring the note to the office on the day the child returns.
- If your child has a chronic medical condition that causes him or her to be absent, make sure the school is aware of these medical issues. Hospital Homebound can be an option.
- Infinite Campus is a GREAT TOOL and is underutilized. You can load it on your cell phone!! Go to the HCBE website under the parent TAB to download.

<http://www.hcbe.net/?DivisionID=14874&DepartmentID=17017>

More Tips.....



What if.....????

o "I gave my child the note, he said he gave it to the teacher..."

- o Double check with the teacher by phone or email every time you send a note to school (primarily for elementary students). They are known to forget about notes in their backpack. Call the school office, they can check for you.*
- o Check with Infinite Campus!! It is constantly being updated. A green "A" means the day was excused. A red "AU" means it was unexcused.*
- o Problems can be taken care of before it gets to court level at 8 unexcused absences.*

STUDENTS TRUANT/TARDY

- Grades suffer
- Retention—I see it every year! Once they fall behind in the early grades, it's difficult to catch up later on. This is especially true if it is a pattern every year.
- May be involved with Juvenile or adult criminal justice system
- Incarceration
- May drop out of school or face academic difficulties
- May be involved in gang activities or drugs
- Pregnancy
- Poor physical and/or mental health issues as adults
- Are more likely to face poverty and welfare
- Lower paying jobs

DROPOUTS

- o Dropouts cost the public more than \$200,000 a year in the following areas:
- o Criminal Justice
- o Social Services
- o Health Care Cost

ANNUAL SALARIES BY EDUCATION LEVEL

- o Less than a High School Diploma: \$23,088
- o High School Diploma: \$32,552
- o Bachelor's Degree: \$53,976
- o Master's Degree: \$66,144
- o Doctoral Degree: \$80,600
- o Professional Degree: \$83,720
- o It's not just about the money though. Over 80 percent of the incarcerated population are high school dropouts.
- o High-school dropouts are 3.5 times more likely than graduates to be incarcerated.

ANNUAL SALARIES BY TECHNICAL SKILLS

COLLEGE IS NOT FOR EVERYONE:
HS DIPLOMA REQUIRED & VARIES BY
LOCATION

- o Welders: \$38,150
- o Truck Drivers: \$40,000
- o Industrial Maintenance Tech: \$41,857
- o Brick Masons: \$51,750
- o Railroad Operators: \$53,990
- o Telecom Line Installers: \$54,200
- o Real Estate Agent: \$58,140
- o If your child has no interest in college, steer them towards a career. They will find something that not only interests them, but will support them.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- o Parents should:
- o Seize opportunities to have frequent positive interaction. School is important, the gateway for future possibilities. (college, military, jobs!)
- o Establish and communicate expectations; Be consistent! Parents who are inconsistent with routines, discipline, and expectations have a tougher time with their children.
- o Help your child form a positive peer group.
- o Encourage your child to participate in school activities.
- o Get involved in your child's school (as best as you can).
- o Get to know your child's teachers and school administrators.

WHEN PARENTS/GUARDIANS ARE INVOLVED

- o Test scores improve
- o Students earn higher grades and graduate
- o Attendance improves
- o Student is motivated, better self-esteem
- o Less student behavior problems.

Common Roadblocks

Little Known Programs

- o Truancy falls under the school social workers, but we can also help with community resources and assistance.
- o McKinney Vento (Homeless). The definition of homeless can be broad and unique under this program (ie-doubled up with relative). The main advantage is school transportation services to school outside zone. POC-Barb Jahnke- 478-218-7500 ext-49451
- o Bullying - There is a no tolerance policy, speak with school administrator.
- o Hospital Homebound Program (school counselors). This program is designed for those students who will miss a significant amount of school due to a chronic medical/mh condition. The school will provide a HH teacher at a rate of 4 hours per every week missed. This is meant to be a temporary program and expires after an approved time frame. You must reapply after every expiration. HH application must be signed by an MD. For MH issues, only a **Psychiatrist's** signature on the HH form will be accepted.
- o Home School? You have that option. If interested, you must contact the Georgia Dept. of Education in Atlanta. Don't forget to withdraw student. <https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Pages/Home-Schools.aspx>

Common Roadblocks

Little Known Programs

- o APEX program—Now in all HS/MS (Mental Health counseling in the schools). Speak with the school counselor if interested.
- o HCCA- great option for a career (contact school counselors). This is a part time program in which students are bussed from their main schools. Some of the programs include culinary, nursing, cosmetology, computers, automotive, etc. <http://hcca.hcbe.net/>
- o Youth Challenge Academy (GA ANG). Boot Camp type program that teaches discipline, and life skills. Students can earn a diploma or GED in as little as 6-8 months. Student **MUST Volunteer** for this program. Parents can not make them go. Program is free. <https://www.georgiayouthchallenge.org/>
- o Online academics (Credit Recovery). This program is at the schools and the HCCA. It is meant for students who have fallen behind, and allows them to make up the work with on-line classes. See school counselors for details
- o **WIN Academy at the HCCA (NEW 2019)** – We are very excited about this new program in the Houston County BOE. This will provide full time alternative options for a student to graduate with greater flexibility. This includes offering evening on-line academic classes (3-7PM) for those who work. This program will re-engage students and make scheduling easier. A Specialist at the Career Academy will support students who have stopped attending school or choose to work. They will reconnect with students to establish a path to graduation.
- o If nothing else works, social workers can recommend - GED options at CGTC.

Social Worker Assignments

Latonya Blasingame 478-302-2105
Email: Latonya.blasingame@hcbe.net
Phone: 988-6200 ext. 48232
Huntington Middle
Langston Road Elementary
Matt Arthur Elementary
Northside High
Quail Run Elementary

Stephanie Canion 478-273-1131
Email: Stephanie.canion@hcbe.net
Phone: 988-6200 ext. 48235
Bonaire Middle
Parkwood Elementary
Transition Academy
Veterans High
Westside Elementary

April Nelson 478- 225-8611
Email: April.nelson@hcbe.net
Phone: 988-6200 ext. 48233
Bonaire Elementary
David Perdue Elementary & Primary
Miller Elementary
Warner Robins High

James Eustis 478-293-2729
Email: James.eustis@hcbe.net
Phone: 988-6200 ext. 48234
Feagin Mill Middle
Houston County Career Academy/WIN Online
Lake Joy Elementary & Primary
Perry Middle
Perry High

Shante Hendrick 478-397-2970
Email: Shante.hendrick@hcbe.net
Phone: 988-6200 ext. 48229
Centerville Elementary
Eagle Springs Elementary
Northside Elementary & Middle
Thomson Middle

Amy Hutto 478-447-2650
Email: Amy.hutto@hcbe.net
Phone: 988-6200 ext. 48231
Houston County High
Kings Chapel Elementary
Morningside Elementary
Mossy Creek Middle
Tucker Elementary

Linda Lewis 478-447-3501
Email: Linda.w.lewis@hcbe.net
Phone: 988-6200 ext. 48230
CB Watson Primary
Hilltop Elementary
Lindsey Elementary
Pearl Stephens Elementary
Warner Robins Middle

Stephen Veal 478-273-1511
Email: Stephen.veal@hcbe.net
Phone: 988-6200 ext. 54211
WIN Academy Middle
WIN Academy High
Russell Elementary
Shirley Hills Elementary

Dr. Alicia Campbell
Coordinator of Student
Services
Email:
alicia.campbell@hcbe.net

What is expected of students...?

- o Be on time for school everyday.
- o Be prepared for class.
- o Complete all assignments and homework.
- o Follow school rules, including dress code.
- o Be respectful, responsible and well mannered at school and on the bus.
- o No unexcused absences.
- o No school or bus suspensions for any reason.



Students--What do you want to do?

- o How do you get there? Most dream jobs START with the HS diploma
- o Failure is not as bad as you think, it's a learning opportunity
- o Dust yourself off, and try again, and again. You will succeed if you give 100%

Most Successful people got where they are through hard work. School is the same way, students have only one job, that is to graduate from school.