

Student Attendance – It's the Law!

The Georgia Compulsory Attendance Law requires that every parent, guardian or other person having control or charge of any child between his or her 6th and 16th birthdays shall enroll and send such child to school. Both parents and students are in violation of the Georgia Compulsory Attendance Law when such students accumulate more than 5 unexcused absences. On the sixth unexcused absence a complaint will be filed through the courts against the parent or guardian and the student. Penalties may include fines up to \$100.00, imprisonment for 30 days, community service or a combination of these penalties.

According to Coweta County School Board Policy, students who accumulate excessive unexcused absences, **regardless of age**, are subject to progressive disciplinary procedures that may include after school detention, loss of course credit, loss of opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities, and, in the case of high school students, loss of driving privileges. As required by the Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act (TAADRA), when a student of driving age has ten or more unexcused absences in the current or previous school year a *Certificate of Non Compliance* will be issued to the Department of Motor Vehicles and the student will lose his or her driver's license.

Excused absences are those due to emergencies such as serious illness or death of a family member, religious reasons, court summons, approved school activities, or student illness. Students must present a note upon returning to school for an absence to be excused.