

Attendance/Truancy Information Sheet

Per new state legislation and local laws, Coweta County School System will follow these attendance policies beginning in August 2005:

- **Georgia Legislation and Board policy indicate that truancy charges may be filed in court after five (5) unexcused absences. These charges can result in fines of \$25 to \$100 per unexcused absence and/or imprisonment of up to 30 days.**
- Absences will be classified as excused or unexcused. Excused absences are those due to emergencies such as illness, death in the family, or other extreme circumstances. Excused absences are religious holidays, service as a page in the General Assembly, school-sponsored activities, and voter registration (Policy JBD). Unexcused absences are all failures to attend school without proper documentation.
- **Upon returning to school, students must bring documentation stating the date and reason for absence with the signature of a parent/guardian, doctor, dentist, or judge. The student and/or parent have the responsibility to present the written excuse within three (3) school days of the student's return to school. At each school the attendance clerk will receive and file excuses. The principal will resolve any question in determining whether an absence is excused or unexcused.**
- The school administration will require an excuse from a doctor, dentist, health center, or court after five (5) consecutive absences, or twelve (12) excused absences related to health, except for mitigating circumstances such as a death in the family. Truancy charges may be filed after 12 excused absences unless there is documentation from a doctor.
- **Skipping 4 high school blocks or 6 middle school periods shall be considered equal to one unexcused day whether the absences are in the same or different blocks or periods.**
- A student must be enrolled a minimum of 80 days per semester (including days transferred from other schools) to receive Carnegie unit credit for a course. A student must be present every day except for excused absences. A student who misses one-half or more of a class period will be counted absent for that class.
- Excused and unexcused absences will result in the loss of full credit for class participation unless students arrange to make up the work within (3) school days of returning to school. The student must complete makeup work and tests within a reasonable amount of time.
- **Repeated absences affect a student's ability to obtain a Georgia Drivers license and may result in the license being revoked.**
- School driving privileges may be revoked for 5 unexcused absences or 10 unexcused tardies.
- **Telephone calls to arrange for an early dismissal of a student will not be accepted. No student will be called out of class until the parent arrives to sign them out.**
- The Coweta County School System may file a juvenile complaint for excessive tardies and requests for early dismissals. Students with more than 10 tardies and/or early dismissals MAY NOT be eligible for the Perfect Attendance Awards at the end of the school year. Students may be required to serve in before or after school detention or lunch detention for excessive tardies.

Student Name _____

Signature of students 10 years of age or older _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

6/14/05