

# Attention Parents!

## School Attendance is Critical

**Recent Research Data from the Georgia State Department of Education** indicates that **missing more than five days of school each year, regardless of the cause, begins to impact student academic performance and starts shaping attitudes about school.** Chronically truant students **are not** the only students negatively impacted by absences. For students in the 6th grade through the 9th grade, student attendance is a better predictor of dropping out of school than test scores. This predictor is not limited to chronically truant students. Excused absences and unexcused absences have similar impact on student academic performance. For additional information please visit the state department of education website at [www.gadoe.org](http://www.gadoe.org)

**It's the Law!** If your child is between the ages of 6 and 16, the **Georgia Compulsory Attendance Law** requires that your child be enrolled and attending a public, private or home school program. The law further states that if your student has five or more unexcused absences you could be in violation of the law and is subject to various penalties allowed under the law. For a copy of the law please visit the state website at [www.gadoe.org](http://www.gadoe.org)

### Cooper Parents

Please emphasize the importance of daily school/class attendance with your children, as frequent absences can begin to establish poor attendance patterns/habits that can lead to risk factors such as:

- Poor Academic Performance
- Skipping/Truancy
- Criminal Delinquency
- Negative Peer Relationships
- Alcohol and Drug Use
- Teen Pregnancy
- School Drop Out

\*If your child is legitimately ill or absent please provide a written parent/doctor note to the school. Cobb School District allows 3 days upon a student's return to turn them into either the home room teacher or attendance clerk.

**Cobb County School District (CCSD)** is required by law to have a policy/protocol to address excessive absences to include procedures for **identifying, reporting, investigating and prosecuting cases of alleged violations of the Georgia Compulsory Attendance Law.** The **CCSD Attendance Protocol** includes the following:

**Three (3) unexcused absences**-teachers will communicate with parents via email, phone, conference or postcard regarding the attendance concern.

**Five (5) unexcused absences**-communication to parents via letter

**Seven (7) unexcused absences**-student will be referred to the school social worker to address concerns regarding the unexcused absences.

**Seven (7) unexcused absences**-students between the ages of 14-17 will receive a letter informing student and parents that three (3) additional absences will result in notifying The Georgia Department of Driver's Services which will lead to the suspension and/or denial of the student's driving privileges for one full year or until age 18.

**Ten (10) or more absences**-students and/or parents will be subject to a referral to The Juvenile Court of Cobb County, Magistrate Court of Cobb County and/or Department of Family and Children Services for truancy and/or Educational Neglect.

**Please note that a principal can refer a student to the school social worker at any time he/she deems necessary.**

