

Attendance Requirements

Code of Alabama (1975) §16-28-3, requires all children between the ages of (6) and (17) to attend school for the minimum number of scholastic days prescribed by the State Board of Education. All laws regarding school attendance shall be strictly enforced by the Auburn City Board of Education.

If a student fails to attend school without submitting a parent, medical, or legal excuse the student and parents/guardians are subject to court intervention. Parents may submit up to (5) parent written excuses per semester, and may be required to submit an excuse for early check-outs. Excuses for absences will be accepted within three days of returning to school. Written excuses must be signed by the custodian of the child due to one of the following reasons:

- Illness of the student
- Death in the immediate family
- Inclement weather which would be dangerous to the life and health of the student as determined by the principal
- Legal quarantine
- Emergency conditions or extenuating circumstances as determined by the principal
- Religious holidays upon receiving the Superintendent's approval **prior to the absence**

Parents can routinely monitor absences by accessing their student's information on the Parent Portal at the ACS web site (www.auburnschools.org) for grades 3-12. If a parent has a question or concern about an absence, the parent should contact the school as soon as possible.

The State Code of Alabama §16-28-40 defines withdrawals as "more than (10) consecutive days or (15) days of total unexcused absences during a single semester." Students meeting these criteria (without acceptable parent, doctor, or legal excuses) will be withdrawn from school.

I. Absences and Truancy

Truancy Definition – Parent/guardian, or other persons having charge of any student officially enrolled in Alabama public schools (K-12) must provide the school within three school days of each and every absence (or consecutive absences) a written explanation of the reason(s) for each absence. Failure to furnish such explanation shall be evidence of the student being truant each day he/she is absent. The student shall be deemed truant for any absence determined by the principal to be unexcused based upon the State Department of Education's current School Attendance Manual.

A. Third truancy/unexcused absence (warning)

After the 3rd unexcused absence, the parents/guardians shall be notified in writing by the school principal or his/her designee that the student was truant and the date of the truancy.

B. No earlier than the fifth unexcused absence (conference)

After the 5th unexcused absence, the parent or person having control of student shall be notified by letter.

After the 5th unexcused absence, the parents/guardians are subject to participate in the Early Warning program provided by the Juvenile Court. At Juvenile Court, the parents/guardians and student are informed of the Alabama State Compulsory Attendance Laws and consequences of further unexcused absences.

C. Seven unexcused absences within a school year constitute a student being truant for purpose of filing a petition with the Court.

The Interagency Committee on Youth Truancy Task Force recommendations known as the Early Warning Truancy Prevention Program timeline for reporting truancy shall define the truancy status of any student as follows:

1. Failure to appear at the school conference and/or failure to appear at the Early Warning program shall result in the filing of a petition **against the parent under Code of Alabama (1975), §16-28-12 (failure to cooperate), or a truancy charge against the student, whichever is appropriate.**
2. **No earlier than the seventh unexcused absence, but within ten (10) school days (court)**
3. File petition against the student and/or parent/guardian, **if appropriate.**

Any **student** ordered to court with a truancy petition could be adjudicated to CHINS (Children in Need of Supervision) by a family court judge. A judge can order additional supervision and services through East Alabama Mental Health, Department of Human Resources, or alternate placements outside the home setting. Additional fees and community service may also be ordered by a judge.

Any **custodial adult** who is prosecuted for failing to require a student to attend school may be jailed for up to one year or fined up to \$500.00 or both.