



LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS EARLY WARNING MEETING



TODAY'S MEETING



1

**PLEASE SIGN IN USING THE
QR CODE**

2

**ATTENDANCE PRESENTATION
TIMELINE FOR TODAY: 30-40
MIN**

3

CONTACT INFO

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Student Support Services Coordinator
Lee County Board of Education
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Opelika, AL 36804
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(RESTROOMS ACROSS THE HALL TO YOUR RIGHT)

THE TRUANCY PROCESS AND THE EARLY WARNING MEETING PURPOSE



EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (EWS)



The Early Warning System (EWS) is designed to assist in addressing at-risk factors such as:

- **Attendance,**
- **Behavior, and**
- **Course attainment or school failure.**

THESE ARE **FACTORS** IN THE TRUANCY PROCESS. HOWEVER, TODAY'S MEETING WILL ONLY FOCUS ON **ATTENDANCE**.

Parents and students often don't see the **true impact** of missing school until it has a **cumulative NEGATIVE impact**, such as failing grades due to missing class.



ATTENDANCE IS OFTEN THE BEST FACTOR THAT LETS US KNOW THAT A STUDENT IS AT-RISK OF FAILING!



ALABAMA SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FAQs



- **ANY CHILD ENROLLED AT THE AGE OF FIVE AND ALL CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF SIX AND SEVENTEEN BY LAW MUST ATTEND SCHOOL**

AUTHORITY: ALA. CODE §16-28-3 (1975)

AMENDED BY ALABAMA ACT 2019-447, §1, EFF 9/1/2019

- **ATTENDANCE IS A KEY INDICATOR OF A STUDENT'S CONNECTION WITH SCHOOL AND THEIR LIKELIHOOD TO GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL.**

- **THE MAJORITY OF STUDENTS WHO "DROP-OUT" FIRST STOP ATTENDING SCHOOL ON A REGULAR BASIS, IN MANY CASES THEIR ATTENDANCE DECREASES OVER SEVERAL YEARS**

- **A STUDENT MAY NOT "DROP-OUT" WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF HIS/HER PARENTS OR GUARDIANS**

AUTHORITY: ALA. CODE §16-28-3.1(1975)

- **A WRITTEN EXCUSE IS REQUIRED FOR ANY ABSENCE(S)**

AUTHORITY: ALA. CODE §16-28-15(1975) ACTS 1982, NO. 82-218,P. 260, §7

- **MANY TIMES CHRONIC ATTENDANCE PROBLEMS START IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WHEN THE CHILD IS NOT IN CONTROL AND A PATTERN OF NON-COMPLIANT BEHAVIOR BEGINS THAT CANNOT BE MANAGED WHEN THEY ARE OLDER**

ROLE OF THE ATTENDANCE OFFICER



- **ATTENDANCE OFFICERS MUST INVESTIGATE ALL REPORTED CASES OF NON-ENROLLMENT OR NON-ATTENDANCE. WHEN THERE IS NO VALID REASON FOR THE NON-ENROLLMENT OR NON-ATTENDANCE, THE ATTENDANCE OFFICER SHALL GIVE THE PARENT...NOTICE REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF THE CHILD.**
- **THE ATTENDANCE OFFICER IS LEGALLY REQUIRED TO BRING CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AGAINST THE PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR OTHER PERSON IN THOSE CASES FOUND TO BE WITHOUT VALID EXCUSE. ALA. CODE §16- 28-16(1975) ACT 2001-344, P. 446, §1.**

THIS PROSECUTION WILL RESULT IN A COURT DATE IN LEE COUNTY'S JUVENILE COURT



MAKE-UP WORK, RETENTION & COURSE CREDIT



WHEN STUDENTS MISS SCHOOL, THEY MISS AT LEAST 5 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION AND INTERACTION PER DAY

STUDENTS MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO MAKE-UP WORK FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

PARENT NOTES MAY EXCUSE A MAXIMUM OF FIVE (5) ABSENCES PER SEMESTER AND MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN 3 DAYS AFTER RETURNING TO SCHOOL

PROMOTION/RETENTION: ABSENCES IN ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS (GRADES K-8)

A student may be retained if unexcused absences exceed ten (10) unexcused days per year

TRUANCY & CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM



TRUANCY... IS THE FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE

POOR ATTENDANCE CAN INFLUENCE WHETHER CHILDREN READ PROFICIENTLY BY THE END OF THIRD GRADE OR BE HELD BACK

BY 6TH GRADE, CHRONIC ABSENCE BECOMES A LEADING INDICATOR THAT A STUDENT WILL DROP OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL

RESEARCH SHOWS THAT:

ATTENDANCE IS EIGHT TIMES MORE PREDICTIVE OF FAILURE THAN PRIOR TEST SCORES. IT HAS CLEARLY BEEN IDENTIFIED THROUGH DATA ANALYSIS THAT ATTENDANCE IS A MAJOR, IF NOT THE BIGGEST, FACTOR IMPACTING OUR STUDENTS ACADEMICALLY AND BEHAVIORALLY.

Truancy Vs. Chronic Absence



TRUANCY

- Counts only unexcused absences
- Emphasizes compliance with school rules
- Relies on legal & administrative solutions

Vs.

CHRONIC ABSENCE

- Counts all absences: excused, unexcused & suspensions
- Emphasizes academic impact of missed days
- Uses community-based, positive strategies



**IT ONLY TAKES TWO ABSENCES PER MONTH TO BECOME
A CHRONIC ABSENTEE.**



LCS ATTENDANCE STEPS

1

FIRST TRUANCY/UNEXCUSED ABSENCE

Upon the **first** unexcused absence, the parent/guardian shall be notified that the student was truant and the date of the truancy

**PARENTS RECEIVE A PHONE CALL, TEXT MESSAGE,
AND EMAIL EACH DAY THEIR CHILD HAS AN
UNEXCUSED ABSENCE.**

2

THIRD TRUANCY/UNEXCUSED ABSENCE (WARNING)

Upon the **third** unexcused absence, the parent/guardian shall be notified in writing by the school principal or their designee on the student's truancy status.

**THIS IS THE FIRST LETTER SENT HOME, MAY BE
EMAILED TO THE PARENT, GIVEN TO THE STUDENT TO
BRING HOME OR MAILED TO THE HOME ADDRESS**



Parent Information

Parent Information

Registration/Enrollment Forms and Information

Powerschool Login Information

+ Parent Newsletter for the County

Accountability Reports

Alabama Dyslexia Resource Overview

Attendance Policy

Child Nutrition

Community Resources

Continuing Education Resources

Coping with Grief After a Tragedy

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

District Boundary Locator Tool

Erin's Law

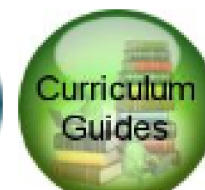
Extended Day Program

FEDRA Notice for Directors Information

Parent Information

Welcome Parents of Lee County Schools!

We hope you find the resources below helpful to questions you may have about Lee County Schools. Please reach out to us if you are unable to find what you need. Thank you for allowing us to participate in educating your children in the years to come.



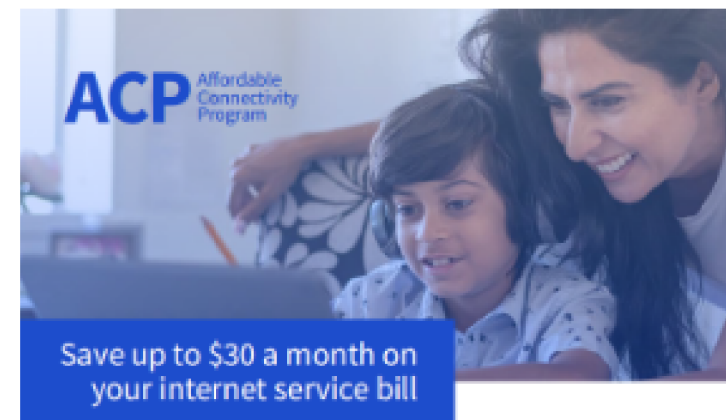
<https://paypams.com/OnlineApp>

[22-23 Spanish Version Lunch Questions and Application](#)



NEED
TECHNOLOGY
HELP?

Contact the
Help Desk!
334-737-4357
(HELP)



The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a new federal program that helps low income families afford the cost of having internet service at home.



LCS ATTENDANCE STEPS

3

FIFTH TRUANCY/UNEXCUSED ABSENCE

THIS IS THE SECOND LETTER SENT HOME, MAY BE EMAILED TO THE PARENT, GIVEN TO THE STUDENT TO BRING HOME OR MAILED TO THE HOME ADDRESS

At the 5th unexcused absence, the parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified via truancy letter by the school principal or his/her designee that the student was truant and the date of the absences. This will serve as an official notification of student's truancy and possible consequences to follow if unexcused absences continue to occur.

DANGER!

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 AGAIN THE PARENT UNDER THE CODE OF ALABAMA (1975) 516-28-3, (FAILURE TO COOPERATE), OR TRUANCY CHARGE AGAINST THE STUDENT, WHICHEVER IS APPROPRIATE

LCS ATTENDANCE STEPS

4

SEVENTH TRUANCY/UNEXCUSED ABSENCE

LAST EFFORT TO COMMUNICATE!

At the 7th unexcused absence, a conference will be scheduled by the school level personnel with the parent/guardian, a school administrator and various members of an attendance team to actively identify, and if needed, to resolve the student's attendance problem. School level personnel will complete referral form notifying attendance liaison of meeting details.

A WRITTEN "ATTENDANCE AGREEMENT" WILL BE
COMPLETED AT THIS MEETING.

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 the Code of Alabama (1975) 516-28-3, (failure to cooperate), or truancy charge against the student, whichever is appropriate

DANGER!

LCS ATTENDANCE STEPS

5

TENTH TRUANCY/UNEXCUSED ABSENCE

At the 10th unexcused absence, a petition/complaint is subject to be filed against the parent(s)/guardian(s) and child (when age appropriate) with the Juvenile Court of Lee County

§ Any student ordered to court with a truancy petition could be adjudicated to CHINS (Children in Need of Supervision) by a 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 (1) year or fined up to \$500.00 or both.



ROLE OF THE COURTS IN TRUANCY



CIRCUIT JUDGE

Honorable Michael C. Fellows



DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Jessica Ventiere



JUVENILE COURT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Kacey Cooper



HELPING FAMILIES INITIATIVE

DIRECTOR HELPING FAMILIES INITIATIVE

LeKeisha Presley



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HELPING FAMILIES INITIATIVE

Amanda Amat





DRIVER'S LICENSE REVOCATION



STUDENTS 15–19 YEARS OF AGE WHO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL OR MISS 10 CONSECUTIVE OR 15 CUMULATIVE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES WITHIN A SEMESTER WILL HAVE THEIR DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENDED.

- **Students must show compliance and pay a \$200 fee to have their driver's license reinstated, AND**
- **Satisfactory progress in a GED program, or the obtainment of a GED certificate constitute compliance, OR**
- **Regular school attendance constitute compliance**
 - **One quarter with an 80% attendance rate and no unexcused absences constitutes regular school attendance.**

DENIAL OF WORK PERMIT

AN ELIGIBILITY TO WORK FORM SHALL ALLOW THE EMPLOYMENT OF A PERSON 14 OR 15 YEARS OF AGE WHO IS DOING SATISFACTORY SCHOOLWORK TO WORK ONLY OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS OR DURING VACATION PERIODS, AND ONLY IN OCCUPATIONS NOT PROHIBITED BY THIS CHAPTER FOR PERSONS OF THESE AGES.

Authority: Ala. Code §25–8–46(1975)

Any 14 or 15 year old student that does not attend school regularly or performing satisfactory shall have the worker's permit revoked or suspended



SUBMITTING EXCUSES

- **THE MOST COMMON REASON FOR AN EARLY WARNING INVITATION OR PETITION IS BECAUSE A STUDENT'S EXCUSES WERE NOT SUBMITTED ON TIME AFTER COMING BACK TO SCHOOL.**
- **EXCUSES MUST BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 3 DAYS OF RETURNING (STATE POLICY).**
- **EXCUSES CAN BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY OR ON PAPER.**
- **ONLINE SUBMISSIONS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED!**



RESULT NOTIFICATIONS WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PERSONNEL FOR THE SCHOOL SELECTED.

WHAT COUNTS AS AN EXCUSED ABSENCE?



EXCUSED

- **ILLNESS OF THE STUDENT**
- **DEATH IN THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY**
- **INCLEMENT WEATHER WHICH WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO THE LIFE AND HEALTH OF THE STUDENT**
- **LEGAL QUARANTINE (INCLUDING COVID)**
- **LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS**
- **EMERGENCY CONDITIONS OR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES AS DETERMINED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT/PRINCIPAL/DESIGNEE**
- **RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS, UPON RECEIVING PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE STUDENT'S PRINCIPAL (THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE)**
- **EVENTS DIRECTLY RELATED TO MILITARY EVENTS OR ACTIVITIES.**

WHAT COUNTS AS AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE?



UNEXCUSED

- **ANY ABSENCE THAT DOES NOT FALL UNDER THE CATEGORY OF EXCUSED ABSENCE IS RECORDED AS AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE.**
- **ALL ABSENCES WILL BE UNEXCUSED IF THE STUDENT AND PARENT FAIL TO PROVIDE THE STATEMENT WITH REQUIRED INFORMATION TO THE SCHOOL WITHIN THREE DAYS OF THE STUDENT'S RETURN TO SCHOOL (ALABAMA STATE POLICY).**

EXAMPLES OF UA: VACATION, NO EXCUSE TURNED IN, TOO MANY PARENT NOTES (LIMIT 10 DAYS)

Sick Kids:

When to Stay Home from School



FEVER A temperature of 100° or higher	COUGHING THAT WON'T STOP Or other problems with breathing	DIARRHEA OR VOMITING Within the past 24 hours	RASH Body rash with itching and/or fever	HEAD LICE Itchy head, active head lice	EYE INFECTION Eye is red and oozing a yellow or green discharge

When to Return to School

Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen	Cough is mild and infrequent and evaluated by doctor if needed	Free from diarrhea and/or vomiting for at least 24 hours and evaluated by doctor if needed	Free from rash, itching or fever and evaluated by doctor if needed	After first head lice treatment	24 hours after starting antibiotic eye drops or ointment
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This information is general guidelines and does not constitute medical advice. It is for informational purposes only. It is not a substitute for professional medical advice. © 2019 Lee County Schools

OPTION 1:
YOUR STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE
IMPROVES, ALL FUTURE ABSENCES
ARE EXCUSED, AND YOU STAY IN THE
CLEAR.



OPTION 2:
ATTENDANCE DOES NOT IMPROVE, YOUR
STUDENT REACHES 7 OR MORE UNEXCUSED
ABSENCES, AND THE ATTENDANCE OFFICER
VISITS THE JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICE
TO FILE A PETITION AGAINST TRUANT
STUDENTS AND/OR CHARGES AGAINST
PARENTS/GUARDIANS/STUDENT.



**THANKS FOR
ATTENDING!**

Contact me!

NATASHA FOSTER

Student Service Coordinator

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