

House Bill 1530 amends Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-91, known as the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law, to provide that a compulsory-school-age child who is absent more than 37% of the instructional day must be considered absent the entire day. Therefore, for the purposes of determining and reporting attendance, a student must be present for at least

- Excused absences shall include
  - Personal illness
  - Death in the family or serious illness in the family
  - Observance of religious holidays of the student's own faith
  - School-related field trips or educational activities approved by the district and/or building administrations
  - Special circumstances, such as a court summons, family emergencies, educational experiences, weather extremes, etc., which require immediate action and that the school principal deems acceptable

In order for any absence, with the exception of school field trips, to be excused, students must submit written documentation explaining the nature of the absence. The student must present the written documentation to proper school official on the day he/she returns to school. If no written documentation is presented, the absence shall be considered unexcused.

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- Seven (7) absences may be *Excused Absence Form*.
  - additional absence after the seven (7) excused absences by a parent/guardian note be excused by a note from a doctor or other documentation excusing said absence.
  - Any documentation given for excuse of absence(s) be submitted to the principal or his/her designee on the \_\_\_\_\_ the student returns to school.
  - When a student has exceeded doctor or omen0.00000912 0 612 792 reW\*nBT/F2 11 Tf1 0 0 1 113.0

Tardies due to late district transportation, or other school-related actions will not be recorded against the calculation of the student's instructional day. Students who are tardy due to late district transportation must still be served breakfast.

- A student is not permitted to leave the school grounds during the regular school day without a written note from the parent/guardian to the principal or the designee stating the reason. The note shall be kept on file in the school. The parent must also physically dismiss his or her child and present a picture identification. A violator shall be subject to disciplinary action. A student excused from school shall be in the custody of a parent or legal guardian or excused pursuant to specific written instructions from the parent or guardian.
- Acceptable dismissals shall include:
  - Personal illness
  - Medical appointments that cannot be arranged after school hours
  - Special family emergencies as approved by the principal
- All dismissals from school shall count against the student's attendance record.

implement programs and procedures that are designed to keep students in school and to lower the dropout rate. School personnel should exhaust all available means and avenues to keep children in school. When a child has missed fifteen days of school, the principal should, in coordination with the district's school attendance officers, implement parental neglect proceedings. Excessive unexcused absences will be reported to the state attendance officer. Tardies and dismissals can result in a student being absent if the child misses more than 37% of the instructional day. The school district does not allow tardies to accumulate into absences.

must occur except under the limited circumstances specified in subsection three (3) of Miss. Code Ann. §37-13-91 which includes, but is not limited to, sending the child to a state approved, nonpublic, or educating the child at home in an organized educational program. July 1, 2003, the law was amended to include the following: a child, five (5) years of age, who enrolls in public kindergarten, will have to abide by the same guidelines as outlined in Miss. Code Ann. §37-13-91.

To register a child for home school, the parent/legal guardian shall contact the Mississippi State School Attendance Officer in Hinds County, through the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), for a certificate of enrollment. The parent/legal guardian shall be required to complete a certificate of enrollment and provide a simple description of the curriculum that he/she has chosen.