

Regular school attendance is essential if students are to master the complex skills and knowledge they must have to live successful lives. The Okefenokee RESA Board of Control provides the minimum number of instructional days every year in compliance with Georgia law. Students and parents are responsible for using the opportunities available to them. Attendance at school should be the rule; absences should be few and for sound reasons. The Okefenokee RESA Board of Control believes that regular attendance and promptness are habits which should be developed early, adhered to through a student's school life, and carried over into adulthood.

The school attendance law of Georgia is as follows:

All children enrolled for 20 school days or more prior to their seventh birthday are subject to the compulsory school attendance law as stated in O.C.G.A. 20-2-150 (c).

Georgia Board of Education Policy states that student absences from school shall be counted as excused under the following circumstances, as a minimum:

1. Personal illness or attendance in school endangering the student's health or the health of others:
2. A serious illness or death in a student's immediate family necessitating absence from school:
3. The observance of religious holidays necessitating absence from school:
4. A court order or an order by a governmental agency, including pre-induction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school;
5. Conditions rendering school attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety; and/or
6. Registering to vote or voting in public election (not to exceed one day).
7. A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the U.S. armed forces or National Guard, and such parent has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat supporting posting will be granted up to 5 days of excused absences per school year to visit with his or her parent prior to the parent's deployment or during the parents leave.
8. Any other absence not explicitly defined in this policy but deemed to have merit based on circumstances as determined by the Executive Director or his/her designee.

Adopted: August 22, 2007

Last Revised: August 23, 2017

**BOARD POLICY
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9. The principal may in certain circumstances require students to present appropriate medical or other documentation upon return to school for the purpose of validating that absences are excused.

All other absences shall be considered unexcused.

In keeping with the regulations set forth in State Law, students shall be marked present at school when the following conditions are met:

1. When a student is serving as a page in the Georgia General Assembly, that student shall be credited as present by the school in which he/she is enrolled for days missed from school for this purpose.
2. A foster care student who attends court proceedings relating to the student's foster care shall be credited as present by the school and shall not be counted as an absence, either excused or unexcused, for any day, portion of a day, or days missed from school.

Students who have excused absences will be allowed to make up all work missed during such absences. It is each student's responsibility and obligation to obtain the assignments and complete the work as directed by the teacher. Completion of make-up work must not exceed a reasonable time from the date of the missed work.

Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Note: The State of Georgia has moved the Georgia Code. This new environment no longer allows us to link directly to the Georgia Code. For example enter 20-02-0211 in the search window and the Georgia Code will appear.

State Reference	Description
O.C.G.A 20-02-0310	Student directory information; voter and selective service registration; pledge of allegiance
O.C.G.A 20-02-0690.1	Mandatory education for children between 6 and 16
O.C.G.A 20-02-0690.2	Establishment of Student Attendance Protocol Committee
O.C.G.A 20-02-0691	Minimum Annual Attendance Required General Assembly pages granted excused absences
O.C.G.A 20-02-0692	
O.C.G.A 20-02-0692.1	Excused Absence: Military Parent on Leave

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O.C.G.A 20-02-0692.2	<u>Foster care student attending court proceedings related to that student's foster care to be credited as present at school</u>
O.C.G.A 20-02-0694	<u>Administration/enforcement of attendance requirements</u>
O.C.G.A 20-02-0696	<u>Duties of Visiting Teachers and Attendance Officers</u>
O.C.G.A 20-02-0697	<u>Cooperation of principals and teachers with attendance officers and visiting teachers</u>
O.C.G.A 20-02-0698	<u>Assumption of temporary custody of truant children by peace officers</u>
O.C.G.A 20-02-0699	<u>Disposition of Children Taken Into Custody</u>
O.C.G.A 20-02-0700	<u>Reports by Peace Officers to School Authorities</u>
O.C.G.A 20-02-0701	<u>Mandatory reporting of truants to juvenile or other courts</u>
O.C.G.A 20-17-0002	<u>Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children</u>
O.C.G.A 21-02-0092	<u>Student Teen Election Participant (STEP) program</u>
O.C.G.A 40-05-0022	<u>Requirements for licensure; school attendance requirements</u>
Rule 160-5-1-.02	<u>School Day and School Year for Students and Employees</u>
Rule 160-5-1-.10	<u>Student Attendance</u>

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