



NEW: EXCUSED ABSENCES PER SEMESTER CHANGED

July 31st, 2018

Announcement: For the 2018-2019 School Year, students in grades 7-12 will be allowed seven (7) absences per semester for excused absences, down from the previously allowed nine (9). For the 2018-2019 School Year, elementary students will be allowed no more than fifteen (15) absences per school year for excused absences, down from the previously allowed eighteen (18). This policy change has been incorporated into the 2018-2019 Student Handbook, approved by the Colbert County Schools Board of Education at its July meeting. As a reminder, all parent notes (which require a parent signature) and/or doctor notes must be turned in within three (3) days of the student's return. Failure to do so would be evidence of the student being truant. All students are allowed five (5) parent notes per semester.

Chronic absenteeism, defined as missing fifteen (15) days of school for any reason, counts against an Alabama school system on the [Education Report Card](#). For the most recent Education Report Card (2016-2017), Colbert County Schools' chronic absenteeism rate was 23.70% - compared to 17.68% statewide. Chronic absenteeism accounts for 10% of a school system's annual report card. The Education Report Card also tracks Academic Achievement, Academic Growth, Graduation Rate, and College and Career Readiness.

Administrators across Colbert County Schools know personal situations arise and want to work with families when situations warrant a discussion.

"By working together, all of us — schools, public officials, public agencies, civic organizations, businesses, philanthropic groups, families and students — can ensure all children can get to school every day so they have an opportunity to learn, flourish and realize their dreams." - Attendance Works

View the full attendance policy - [CCS Student Attendance Policy \(6.11\)](#)