

MARYLAND'S COMPULSORY

ATTENDANCE LAW

Who Must Attend?

Every child between the ages of 5 and 17 (18 effective 7/1/17) shall attend a public school regularly during the entire school year unless otherwise enrolled in private school or home instruction approved by Baltimore County Public Schools

Duty of parent or guardian:

Each person who has under his/her custody a child between 5 and 17 (18 effective 7/1/17) years of age must see that the child attends school or receives instruction as required above.

Penalties:

Under the Maryland Compulsory Attendance Law charges may be filed in District Court.

A parent or guardian may be found guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine or incarceration for unlawful absences of a student.



DIPLOMA



**DON'T LEAVE SCHOOL
WITH OUT IT!**

**Division of Curriculum and
Instructions
Office of School Climate
Office of Pupil Personnel Services
105 West Chesapeake Avenue
Jefferson Building, Lower Level
Towson, Maryland 21204
Office: 443-809-0404
Fax: 410-296-3403**

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



**BUILDING A BRIDGE TO
THE FUTURE**



Attend to Achieve
Every Student. Every Day.

The Importance of Good Attendance



Children are in school to learn and grow into responsible, productive young adults prepared to enter college and the world of work. Regular school attendance is the key to high school graduation and college and career readiness.

Poor attendance in elementary school often leads to excessive absences in middle and high school. Poor attenders may become disinterested, unmotivated, and may drop out of school.

Unlawful absences or trancies have been identified as one of the early warning signs for potential delinquent activity, social problems, or failure in school. According to research, truancy frequently leads to dropping out of school, entering the juvenile court system, and unemployment. Additionally, dropouts typically earn lower salaries.

Students who meet the state attendance standard of 94% are more likely to feel connected, achieve academic success, and graduate from high school college and career ready.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Student Responsibilities:

- Attend school and class on time each day.
- Complete all assignments, participate in class discussions, and follow directions given by teachers.
- Take responsibility for behavior.
- Request and complete make-up work.
- Take advantage of academic supports.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities:

- Encourage student attendance by taking a positive approach to school and school activities.
- Read the Student Handbook to review information about daily school attendance.
- Take an active interest in your child's education by being positive and insisting on good attendance.
- Check frequently with school personnel to be aware of your child's attendance and academic progress.
- Attend parent conferences, review interims, and report cards.
- Send a written excuse when your child returns to school after being absent.

RESPONSIBILITIES

School Responsibilities:

1. Establish a school attendance committee.
2. Accurately record and code student absences.
3. Make daily contact with parents/guardians of absent students.
4. Provide support to parent/guardian.
5. Refer to the pupil personnel worker.

Where Do YOU Get Help?

1. Classroom Teacher
2. School Counselor
3. School Social Worker
4. School Nurse
5. School Psychologist
6. School Administrator
7. Pupil Personnel Worker

