

ATTENDANCE, ABSENCES, TRUANCY, AND WITHDRAWAL

Attendance

The Tennessee State Compulsory Attendance Law (T.C.A. §49-6-3001 and T.C.A. §49-6-2007) requires that pupils of legal age attend school (ages of six and seventeen years, both inclusive) unless special circumstances arise which temporarily or permanently excuse the student from attendance. This also applies to five (5) year old students who have attended school for six (6) weeks. By state law, the student's school year shall consist of a minimum of 180 teaching days exclusive of all vacations, as approved by the Board of Education. (T.C.A. §49-6-3004) The annual calendar is divided into two semesters. A copy of this calendar is included at the front of this handbook.

Enrollment of Students Beyond Compulsory Attendance Age (Policy #6021)

During the first (20) days, students beyond compulsory attendance age (eighteen (18) years of age or older) who have been continuously enrolled with the District may register for school through the standard registration process. However, upon enrollment, all such students shall meet with their school principals and other appropriate staff to evaluate academic options and make appropriate education placement for the students, including overage for grade students; and outline the academic and behavioral expectations of the student within the school.

During the first twenty (20) days of each semester, those students who fall in the following categories will be admitted only by special permission of the principal of the school where they seek admission.

Absences and Excuses (Policy #6047)

The Bartlett City Schools Board of Education believes that regular attendance is a necessary requirement of all students. All students are expected to attend school on each day that school is officially in session. Only the following reasons will be considered for excused absences:

1. Personal illness. The District may require a parent conference and/or physician verification to justify absences after the accumulation of ten (10) days of absence during a school year. Notes must be date specific and will be required for subsequent absences beyond ten (10) days.

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2. Illness of immediate family member
3. Death in the family
4. Extreme weather conditions
5. Religious observances
6. Circumstances which in the judgment of the principal create emergencies over which the student has no control

A **statement (handwritten or e-mail) within two (2) school days** of the student's return to school shall be required from the parent or guardian explaining the reason for each absence; otherwise, the absence will be considered unexcused.

If necessary, verification is required from an official source to justify absences.

All absences other than those outlined above shall be considered unexcused.