

TEENAGE AND ADULT DRIVER RESPONSIBILITY ACT (TAADRA)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How many unexcused absences may a student have before he or she is reported as non-compliant?

A *Certificate of Non-Compliance* should be submitted when a student has ten or more unexcused absences in the current academic year or ten or more unexcused absences in the previous academic year.

2. Can tardiness and partial-day absences be equated to an unexcused absence?

State Board Rule 160-5-1-.02 defines a school day as “the period between the time students are required to be present and their dismissal.” This time period is specified by local boards of education. Although there is no statewide definition of “unexcused absence,” State Board Rule 160-5-1-.10 delineates absences which all schools must consider excused. It also provides that school days missed as a result of an out-of-school suspension shall not count as unexcused.

3. If a student is enrolled in a public school and doesn’t show up on the first day of the new school year, when do you start counting unexcused absences?

According to the State Board Rule on Student Enrollment and Withdrawal (160-5-1-.28), a student who is not in attendance on the first day of school but was expected based on prior year enrollment shall be withdrawn as a no-show student and shall not be included in any enrollment or attendance counts. However, pursuant to TAADRA requirements, a Certificate of Non-Compliance should be submitted for students who fail to attend after ten consecutive school days.

4. May I submit noncompliance data for 14 year olds?

Yes. Schools may submit non-compliance data on 14-year-olds.

5. What about out-of-state students who wish to obtain a *Certificate of Attendance*?

It shall be the responsibility of the student’s parent or guardian to provide for the transmission of attendance and discipline records in order to be eligible for a *Certificate of Attendance*. An official record of attendance must be received before a *Certificate of Attendance* can be prepared.

6. Is there a statute of limitations for submitting non-compliance data?

No. Non-compliance data can be submitted at any time when the information will impact the student’s eligibility to possess a driver’s license or instruction permit. However, the non-compliance date listed should be date that the infraction occurred, not the date when the data was transmitted.

7. What are the criteria for determining a non-compliant student?

A non-compliant student is one who:

- Has dropped out of school without graduating and has remained out of school for ten consecutive school days;
- Has ten or more school days of unexcused absences in the current academic year or ten or more school days of unexcused absences in the previous academic year
- Has been found in violation by a hearing officer, panel, or tribunal of one of the following offenses, has received a change in placement for committing one of the following offenses, or has waived his or her right to a hearing and pleaded guilty to one of the following offenses::

- i. Threatening, striking, or causing bodily harm to a teacher or other school personnel;
- ii. Possession or sale of drugs or alcohol on school property or at a school sponsored event;
- iii. Possession or use of a weapon on school property or at a school sponsored event. (The term weapon is defined by Georgia Code Section 16-11-127.1 but shall not include any part of an archeological or cultural exhibit brought to school in connection with a school project.);
- iv. Any sexual offense prohibited under Georgia law (Chapter 6 of Title 16);
- v. Causing substantial physical or visible bodily harm to or seriously disfiguring another person, including another student.

8. If a student withdraws from school and enters a GED preparation course, how does the student get a *Certificate of Attendance*?

The Technical College System of Georgia (formerly known as the Department of Technical and Adult Education) is responsible for compliance and non-compliance data for students who drop out of public, private, or home school to pursue a general educational development (GED) program.

9. Should a school submit a *Certificate of Non-Compliance* for a student who drops out of school to enroll in a G.E.D. preparation course?

Yes. Schools should submit a *Certificate of Non-Compliance* for any student who drops out of school without graduating and has remained out of school for ten consecutive school days. Students who are enrolled in a GED preparation course may have their license reinstated by the Technical College System of Georgia.

10. Who is responsible for issuing a *Certificate of Attendance* for students in the K-12 school system?

The local system/school should designate someone to handle this responsibility.

11. Who is responsible for submitting non-compliance data?

Local TAADRA coordinators are responsible for collecting non-compliance data from public schools and private schools and submitting the data to the state using the electronic web application.

12. What happens after non-compliance data has been submitted?

After receiving non-compliance data, the Department of Driver Services will notify the student by certified mail, return receipt requested, that a *Certificate of Non-Compliance* has been received and that his or her permit/license is suspended.

13. What are the responsibilities of the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) in regards to the TAADRA law?

The GaDOE shall provide technical assistance and answer questions regarding implementation of the law. Non-compliance data received by the GaDOE from local school districts will be submitted daily to the Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS).

14. When can a student’s driver’s license or learner’s permit be reinstated after non-compliance data has been submitted?

A student may have his/her learner’s permit or driver’s license reinstated after a period of one year from the date of the infraction or when the student becomes 18 years old, whichever comes first.

Effective January 1, 2009, a student may also have his or her learner’s permit or driver’s license reinstated if the suspension was imposed pursuant to the student dropping out of school without graduating and remaining out of school for ten consecutive school days, upon receipt of satisfactory proof that the minor is pursuing or has received a general educational development (GED) diploma, a high school diploma, a special diploma, a certificate of high school completion, or has terminated his or her secondary education and is enrolled in a postsecondary school. O.C.G.A. § 40-5-22

15. Where can I find a copy of the TAADRA law?

The TAADRA law (O.C.G.A. 40-5-22) is available online at <http://www.lexis-nexis.com/hottopics/gacode/default.asp>

16. Are public schools responsible for providing a Certificate of Attendance form for students in home study programs?

No. An agreement has been reached with the Department of Driver Services (DDS) which allows students in home study programs to bring a copy of their *Declaration of Intent* form to the local driver's license office. If you homeschool parent/guardian submitted the *Declaration of Intent* form online using the Georgia Department of Education website, the *Declaration of Intent* form which contains digital signature will now replace the Certificate of Attendance form for homeschool students to obtain their driver's license or learner's permit. If homeschool parents/guardians have any problems at the local driver’s license office, they should contact Ms. Patsy Bailey at the DDS at (770) 918-5819.

17. Who completes non-compliance data for private schools?

An administrator at the private school should complete a paper *Certificate of Non-Compliance* and submit it to the TAADRA coordinator in the public school system in which the child resides.

18. Who can I contact if I have questions about TAADRA?

- To request a login ID and password to enter noncompliance data on the electronic Web application, please contact Information Technology Customer Support by email at dticket@doe.k12.ga.us, or by telephone at 1-800-869-1011.
- For general questions about the TAADRA law, please contact the GaDOE by phone at (404) 463-7891, (404) 656-2800 or 1(800) 311-3627. You may also contact GaDOE by email at jhodges@doe.k12.ga.us or askdoe@doe.k12.ga.us.
- For questions pertaining to hardship exemptions, license reinstatements, or revoked/suspended licenses, contact the DDS by telephone at (678) 413-8400, (678) 413-8500 or (678) 413-8600.