

BHS Absentee Policy:

Handle absences responsibly: Students may not earn credit for a class in which they have missed 20 or more days during the semester. Know the [REDACTED] mate reasons for absence. Send a note within five (5) days after your student returns to school briefly explaining the absence. Plan family vacations with the school calendar in mind. Reminder: vacations are not considered excused absences. Buford City Schools require students to be in attendance in accordance with requirements of the compulsory attendance law. Absences shall be considered excused only if they comply with legal requirements established by the State of Georgia and the State Board of Education.

Georgia State Law O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-690. [REDACTED] ent of Education State Attendance Rule 160-5-1-.10 defines "Truant" as "any child su [REDACTED] nce who during the school calendar year has more than five or more days of unexcused absences". Parents/Guardians will be notified by phone or letter by the school when a student has accumulated 5, 7 and 10 unexcused absences. Under Ga. Law §20-2-690.2, it is mandatory for a parent to ensure that his or her student(s) attend school and is punishable by fine not to exceed \$100.00, imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, community service, or any combination of the penalties. Each day's absence from school in violation of this law shall constitute a separate offense. Other possible consequences and penalties for failing to comply could include but is not limited to the Juvenile Court Child In Need of Services (CHINS) program, the student being placed on juvenile probation, student deprived from home, student serve time at the Youth Detention Center, and/or possible denial or suspension of a driver's license for a student. The Georgia Department of Education State Attendance Rule 160-5-1-.10 and section JB of the Buford City Schools Board of Education Policy states that students will be excused from school under the following circumstances, as a minimum.

1. Personal illness or attendance in school endangers a 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. 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.
 4. Observing religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.
 5. A period not to exceed one day (at the discretion of the local unit of administration) for registering to vote or for voting in a public election.
 6. Serving as pages of the Georgia General Assembly (Students will be counted present.)
 7. A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard, and such parent or legal guardian has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of five school days per school year, for the day or days missed from school to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian prior to such parent's or legal guardian's deployment or during such parent's or legal guardian's leave.
- In addition, appropriate medical documentation will be required following the tenth absence for the purpose of validating the absence as an excused absence. Students are required to be in attendance on each day that school is in session. When a student is absent from school, he or she must be marked absent in the official attendance register maintained by the classroom teacher. The school is required to contact a parent or guardian EVERY TIME that a student is absent.