



MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

Ensuring a bright *future* for every child

Missing School = Missing Out

MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS IN SCHOOL  
EVERYDAY

### ***Why must I send my child to school?***

The Compulsory School Attendance Law states all children who have attained or will attain the age of six (6) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year and who has not attained the age of seventeen (17) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year; and shall include any child who has attained or will attain the age of five (5) years on or before September 1 and has enrolled in a full-day public school kindergarten program.

### ***Why must your child attend school regularly?***

Regular attendance will:

- Give your child the best possible start in life
- Help your child to keep up with school work
- Reduce the opportunity for your child to be drawn into anti-social or criminal activities

### ***What does regular attendance mean?***

Regular attendance means that your child must:

- Attend school every day unless there are \*justified reasons
- Arrive at school on time
- Obey the school rules

\*Includes illness, days of religious observance and leave approved by the district Superintendent or his/her designee

### ***What can parents do to help their child's school attendance?***

- Start the habits of regular school attendance at an early age
- Call the school if the child is going to be absent
- Remember that your child must not be kept away from school for reasons such as:
  - Watching after others at home
  - Taking care of the house
  - Visiting family members
  - Taking long weekends
  - Shopping trips
  - Birthday treats

### ***What do you do if your child is ill?***

- Contact the school as early as you can on the first day of absence (call the school office or send a note).
- When your child returns to school, send a note to the school giving the reason for your child's absence. Remember to sign and date the note.

### ***What happens if the school refers your child to the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement?***

- If your child misses five unexcused days, the school attendance officer will call or write to arrange an appointment to meet with you.
- Any parent, guardian or custodian of a child that misses 12 unexcused days from school may be subject to a \$1, 000.00 fine, up to one year in jail, or both.

For more information contact 601.359.3178