

Excessive Absence Policy

There are occasions when students will be absent from school, but the goal of the GA/AL District is to prevent excessive absences. Excessive school absence is defined as 7 or more absences, whether excused **or** unexcused, or 5 tardies during a *semester as defined by DoDEA Policy*.

Schools will invoke the attendance policy through a series of steps to help families reduce absenteeism and tardiness.



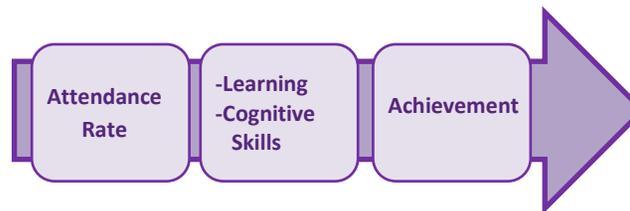
A continuation of actions will be taken if excessive absences/tardies persist; see steps 1 – 6 below.

Excessive Unexcused Absence/ Tardy Procedures:

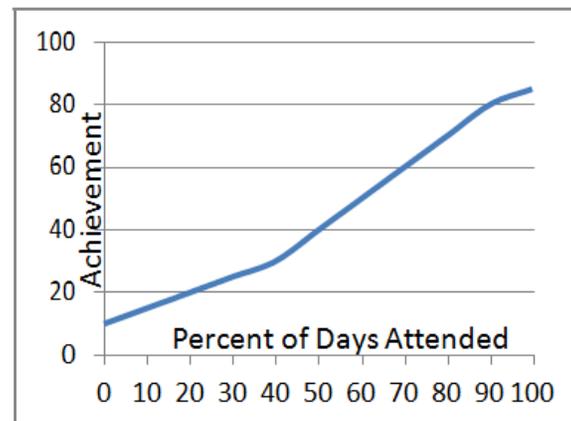
- 1) Notify parent of excessive absenteeism
- 2) Hold meeting with the parent
- 3) Convene a Student Support Team and create an academic intervention plan if needed.
- 4) Request support from military-base social services to help parents get their child to school
- 5) Monitor child's attendance to assess compliance with attendance policy
- 6) Command involvement is required if unexcused absences/tardies persist after all other interventions have been attempted.

Attendance = Achievement!

A large number of factors affect how well students perform academically. One of these factors is school attendance. Attending classes is important because it enables students an opportunity to learn more and to acquire stronger cognitive skills, which improves their level of academic achievement.



In fact, studies have shown that students who attend more school days per year learn more and perform better academically, as measured by achievement tests. The graph illustrates the general relationship between the percent of school days attended and student achievement scores.



Parental Support Services

The GA/AL Community recognizes that military families face challenges and obstacles stemming from the demands placed on our brave soldiers in their service to the country. Some of these obstacles may adversely affect the ability of parents to get their child to school. Therefore, it is important that parents take advantage of the services available to help them to overcome conditions that cause excessive school absences.

The *Family Advocacy Services (FAP)* (AR 608-18) provide a large range of support services, such as:

- Violence Intervention
- Parenting Education
- Relationship Counseling
- Temporary Child Care
- Foster Care
- Victim Advocacy



Family Advocacy Program

Bldg. 241 2nd Floor
Fort Benning GA
706-626-2614
706-545-7594

School Attendance Requirement

Students are required to attend 180 days of school per year.

Excused Absences

- 1) Personal illness.
- 2) Medical, dental, or mental health appointment.
- 3) Serious illness in the student's immediate family.
- 4) A death in the student's immediate family or of a relative.
- 5) Religious holidays.
- 6) Emergency conditions such as fire, flood, or storm.
- 7) Unique family circumstances warranting absence and coordinated with school administration.
- (8) Pandemic event.



Unexcused Absence

Absence from school or a class without written verification from a parent or sponsor will be unexcused.



DoDEA Americas
Southeast District

Georgia/Alabama
Community



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U.S. Department of Defense
Education Activity
dodea Americas

**Southeast District
Georgia/Alabama Community**



**Excessive School
Absences**

**Policies, Procedures, and
Parental Support Services**



Ft. Benning, GA

**Dr. Lisa B. Coleman
Community Superintendent**