

REVISED ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR THE OAK RIDGE SCHOOLS

The purpose of this notification is to inform you of the newly revised attendance policy that has been approved by the school board for the Oak Ridge Schools. This policy is in effect and will be followed by all schools in the Oak Ridge district.

Absences may be classified as either excused or unexcused as determined by the principal or his/her designee. Absences will only be excused for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness
 - a. Only seven (7) days, whether consecutive or not can be excused by a parent note;
 - b. After a child has seven (7) days, not necessarily consecutive, of illness related absences excused by a parent note, any future illness related absence must have a doctor's note stating that the absence is medically necessary.
 - c. All parent and doctor notes must be turned into the school within three (3) days of the child returning to school.
2. Death in the family
3. Religious observations
4. Extreme weather conditions
5. Court appearance or legal mandates
6. Verifiable family emergency
7. School sponsored events
8. Principal has discretion to excuse absences based on the following:
 - a. The absence must be prearranged
 - b. The absence must not have an adverse affect on the child's academic standing
 - c. The child must have a good attendance history
 - d. The child must have a good behavior record
 - e. The Superintendent must agree

Absences that do not meet any of the criteria listed above will be considered unexcused. **The criteria listed above will also apply to tardies and early dismissals.**

Students who are absent **five (5)** days without adequate excuse will be reported to the superintendent of schools or his designee. Parents/Guardians will receive written notification of the student's absences. Upon the next unexcused absence, a referral may be made to the Anderson County Juvenile Court and a Truancy petition may be issued.

The legal consequences issued by the Court for unlawful absences can range from zero to the child being placed in the custody of the Tennessee Department

(over)

of Children's Services with the parents paying child support to the State. Parents can also be fined up to \$50.00 per day, given community service or be ordered to serve time in the county jail.

Students participating in school-sponsored activities whether on or off campus may not be counted absent. In order to qualify as "school sponsored," the activity must be school planned, school directed and teacher-supervised or approved by the superintendent.