



# SUMTER COUNTY

## School District

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### School Attendance- It's the LAW!

#### Florida State Statute:

The state legislature, through Florida Statute 1003.26, requires the following process of schools in dealing with attendance:

1. The parent must be contacted upon each unexcused absence or absence for which the reason is unknown.
2. If a student accumulates five (5) unexcused absences, or absences for which the reason is unknown within a month, or ten (10) unexcused absences or absences for which the reason is unknown within 90 calendar days, the student must be referred to the school's child study team. The team meets with the parent to identify possible remedies.
3. If all reasonable efforts are exhausted and the student continues to be absent, the case is reported to the Superintendent and may be referred to the judicial system.

#### Sumter District Policy:

District policy requires that on the tenth (10) absence and thereafter in one semester, a student must submit a physician's statement for the absence to be excused. Absences for which the school principal has given prior approval will be excused although those excused absences will be included in the ten or more absences in which a physician's statement is required. For any unexcused absence, a failing grade will be recorded in the class/classes in which graded work was recorded for the day.

High school students sixteen (16) years of age and older who have 15 unexcused absences in a 90 calendar day period may be placed in the adult education program or Sumter PREP Academy for a one semester minimum.

In summary, avoid unnecessary problems by calling the school when your child is sick, then follow up with a written note the day he/she returns. The note must be signed by you and include your child's name, the dates of the absence and the reason. The school must receive the note within three days of the absence or it will be unexcused. If the school contacts you concerning your child's absence, remember that they are following the law.