

# MISSISSIPPI COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW

*Notice: If your child misses TWELVE (12) or more unexcused days of school, you will be in violation of the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law.*

*Tate County School District is required by law to report unexcused absences to the School Attendance Officer.*

Tate County Schools' Attendance Policy, in accordance with state law, requires that a student be present for 63% of his/her instructional class time in order to be counted present for the day. Therefore, tardies and early check-outs will count as an absence if more than 37% of instructional time is missed. Times will vary according to the grade your child is in and their schedule. Any documentation given for absence(s) to be excused must be submitted to the school within two (2) days of returning to school, unless granted an exception by the principal for extenuating circumstances.

Parents are allowed to submit five (5) parent/guardian notes per semester. If a student is absent for more than three (3) consecutive days, an excuse from the doctor is required.

Any additional absence, after the allowed number excused by a parent/guardian note, **MUST** be excused with a note from a doctor or other professional caring for the student. Please contact the school promptly if the student will be out for an extended period of time due to illness or injury.

## Prosecution for Refusal or Failure to Comply with the Compulsory School Attendance Law:

The parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child who refuses or willfully fails to perform the duties imposed by the MS Compulsory Attendance Law is guilty of contributing to the neglect of a child, a misdemeanor punishable by:

- A fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000)
- A jail time of not more than one (1) year; or
- Both a fine and jail time

BEFORE A CASE IS FILED AGAINST YOU IN COURT REGARDING ATTENDANCE VIOLATIONS, THE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICER WILL SEND YOU WRITTEN NOTICE AND WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT YOU BY PHONE. ANY CHANGES IN YOUR ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER MUST BE GIVEN TO THE SCHOOL IN ORDER TO KEEP YOU INFORMED.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE ALL PARENTAL NOTES OR DOCTOR EXCUSES ARE SUBMITTED WITHIN THE TWO (2) DAY TIME FRAME, AS PER TATE COUNTY POLICY. IT IS ALSO YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT THE SCHOOL IF YOU DISAGREE WITH THE NUMBER OF UNEXCUSED ABSENCES AND RESOLVE THE ISSUE WITH THE SCHOOL.

*I have read or had someone read to me the above information. I understand the attendance policy. I acknowledge that if I do not understand or if I have questions concerning the attendance policy, it is my responsibility to contact the school.*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: East Tate Elementary School

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Best contact phone number for parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_