

# IMPORTANT CHANGES TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

## New Mississippi Law & Jackson Public Schools Policy

Strong attendance today leads to success tomorrow.  
Every day. Every class. Every student.

ATTEND  
TODAY.  
ACHIEVE  
TOMORROW.  
SUCCEED  
FOREVER.



### MISSISSIPPI LAW CHANGES

Senate Bill 2103 (Effective Prior to 2026 School Year)

These new requirements apply to all public school students statewide.

| TOPIC                                 | OLD LAW / POLICY<br>(Before SB 2103)                                            | NEW LAW / POLICY<br>(SB 2103)                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ATTENDANCE COUNTED PRESENT            | Present for at least <b>63%</b> of the instructional day.                       | Present for at least <b>66%</b> of the instructional day.                                                                                                       |
| EXCUSED ABSENCES PER SEMESTER         | No limit on excused absences (with appropriate documentation).                  | Maximum of <b>five (5)</b> excused absences per semester unless approved by the Superintendent or designee for extenuating circumstances.                       |
| DOCTOR'S NOTE REQUIREMENT             | No doctor's note required after the <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> excused absence.      | A doctor's note (medical documentation) is required beginning with the <b>4<sup>th</sup></b> excused absence (after the <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> excused absence). |
| COURT PETITION FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES | May be filed after <b>12</b> unexcused absences.                                | May be filed after <b>8</b> unexcused absences.                                                                                                                 |
| ABSENCE REPORTING REQUIREMENT         | Report unlawful absences within <b>2 days or 5 days</b> , whichever is shorter. | Report unlawful absences by the close of the <b>next business day</b> following the unlawful absence.                                                           |



### JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATTENDANCE POLICY (JBL)

In addition to state law, JPS policy outlines expectations for extracurricular participation, notifications, and reinstatement.



#### PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Good attendance matters! Students must meet eligibility requirements to participate in extracurricular activities **and to attend as a spectator, guest, participant, or attendee.**



#### EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY TIMELINE (BASED ON UNEXCUSED ABSENCES)



##### ATTENDANCE WARNING NOTIFICATION

A warning notification is sent to the parent/guardian.



##### MANDATORY PARENT/GUARDIAN CONFERENCE

A conference is required with the parent/guardian.



##### ATTENDANCE PROBATION & ELIGIBILITY REVIEW

After the first semester, a student with six (6) or more unexcused absences is ineligible to participate in or attend extracurricular and non-instructional activities until reinstatement requirements are met.



##### PARTIAL RESTRICTION

After the first semester, a student is partially restricted from selected extracurricular activities.



##### FULL RESTRICTION

After the first semester, a student is fully restricted from extracurricular participation and attendance privileges.



#### REINSTATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY

A student who becomes ineligible may be reinstated when they meet the requirements set by the school and the waiting period is complete.



#### PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ensure your child attends school every day and on time.
- Provide valid documentation for excused absences.
- Communicate with the school about upcoming absences.
- Support your child's success—attendance matters!



VIEW JPS BOARD POLICY JBL  
Minimum School Day, School Attendance,  
Tardiness and Excuses

[CLICK OR SCAN THE QR CODE](#)



### JPS BELL SCHEDULES & THE 66% RULE

A student must be present for at least 66% of the instructional day to be counted present.

#### REGULAR BELL SCHEDULE

| SCHOOL EVENT                      | ELEMENTARY       | MIDDLE           | HIGH             |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| School Opens                      | 7:00 – 7:24 a.m. | 7:20 a.m.        | 7:45 a.m.        |
| Homeroom/Advisory                 | 7:25 – 7:29 a.m. | 7:25 – 8:00 a.m. | 8:05 – 8:30 a.m. |
| Instruction Begins                | 7:30 a.m.        | 8:00 a.m.        | 8:35 a.m.        |
| Instruction Ends / Dismissal Time | 2:30 p.m.        | 3:30 p.m.        | 4:05 p.m.        |

#### EARLY RELEASE SCHEDULES

|                                   | 80% DAY SCHEDULE | HIGH      |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| School Opens                      | 7:00 – 7:24 a.m. | 7:20 a.m. |
| Instruction Begins                | 7:30 a.m.        | 8:00 a.m. |
| Instruction Ends / Dismissal Time | 1:15 p.m.        | 2:35 p.m. |

#### 60% DAY SCHEDULE

|                                   |                  |            |           |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------|-----------|
| School Opens                      | 7:00 – 7:24 a.m. | 7:20 a.m.  | 7:45 a.m. |
| Instruction Begins                | 7:30 a.m.        | 8:00 a.m.  | 8:35 a.m. |
| Instruction Ends / Dismissal Time | 12:00 p.m.       | 12:30 p.m. | 1:20 p.m. |

Schedules are subject to change. Refer to your school for updates.

### 66% RULE: LATEST ARRIVAL & EARLIEST DISMISSAL TO BE COUNTED PRESENT

Students must be present for at least 66% of the instructional day.

| SCHEDULE LEVEL | LATEST ARRIVAL TIME<br>(TO BE COUNTED PRESENT) |            |            | EARLIEST DISMISSAL TIME<br>(TO BE COUNTED PRESENT) |            |            |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
|                | REGULAR DAY                                    | 80% DAY    | 60% DAY    | REGULAR DAY                                        | 80% DAY    | 60% DAY    |
| Elementary     | 9:52 a.m.                                      | 9:27 a.m.  | 9:01 a.m.  | 12:08 p.m.                                         | 11:18 a.m. | 10:29 a.m. |
| Middle         | 10:33 a.m.                                     | 9:59 a.m.  | 9:31 a.m.  | 12:57 p.m.                                         | 11:51 a.m. | 10:59 a.m. |
| High           | 11:08 a.m.                                     | 10:37 a.m. | 10:11 a.m. | 1:32 p.m.                                          | 12:33 p.m. | 11:44 a.m. |

These times are based on the instructional portion of the school day.  
Arriving after the "Latest Arrival Time" or leaving before the "Earliest Dismissal Time" results in less than 66% attendance and the student will be counted absent for the day.

### ATTENDANCE REFERRAL FLOW CHART

#### 3 ABSENCES (EXCUSED OR UNEXCUSED)



- School contacts parent/guardian
- Document Communication
- Submit referral to School Attendance Officer
- Begin school-based interventions
- Document all contacts and interventions

#### 5 UNLAWFUL ABSENCES



- Submit Referral to School Attendance Officer
- Continue and strengthen interventions
- Share intervention documentation with the SAO

#### 8 UNLAWFUL ABSENCES



- Submit referral to School Attendance Officer
- Review effectiveness of Intervention
- Continue family engagement and supports

#### 12 UNLAWFUL ABSENCES



- Submit referral to School Attendance Officer
- Provide complete intervention documentation

#### 15 UNLAWFUL ABSENCES EXAMPLE: 20, 25, 30



Submit referrals for every **5** unlawful absences



ATTEND TODAY.  
ACHIEVE TOMORROW.  
SUCCEED FOREVER.



#### QUESTIONS?

Please contact your child's school for assistance.



**JACKSON**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS