

Maryland State Compulsory Attendance

Who Must Attend:

Every child between the ages of 5 and 16 shall attend a public school regularly during the entire school year unless otherwise enrolled in private school or home instruction approved by Baltimore County Public Schools.

Duty of Parent/Guardian:

Each person who has under his/her custody a child between 5 and 16 years of age must have the child attend school or receive instruction as required above.

Penalties:

Any person who has custody of a child between the ages of 5 and 16 who fails to have the child attend school or receive instruction under this compulsory attendance article is violating the law. A parent or guardian of a chronically truant child can be found guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine not to exceed \$50 per day for unlawful absences or imprisonment not to exceed 10 days, or both. Charges may be filed in the District Court of Maryland of Baltimore County. The court may suspend the fine and establish terms and conditions aimed at improving the child's attendance.

Student Responsibilities

Students are responsible for daily school attendance. Class work experiences are fundamental to academic success. According to BCPS rules, class work will constitute no less than 50 percent of the total grade. Students missing as much as 20 percent of the class time within each grading period are subject to a failing class work grade. Teachers are not expected to repeat class work for unexcused or unlawful absences.

Parent Responsibility

First and foremost, the parent/guardian is responsible for their child's regular on-time school attendance under the Maryland Compulsory School Attendance law. In addition, the parent/guardian is expected to provide their child with a signed, written statement accounting for the reason and date(s) of absence to be presented upon the child's return to school for excused absences. At the discretion of the principal, a written statement from a physician may be required in the case of excessive or extended absences. Absences not accounted for in writing by the parent or doctor will be coded "other unlawful".

School Responsibility

Upon receipt of the absence note, the school will certify the absence as excused or unexcused (unlawful). Teachers will assist students in making up missed work for excused absences.