



Alabama law **requires children between the ages of 6 and 17 to attend school**. The parent of a child who is 6 may opt out of enrolling the child in school by written notification to the local school board that the child will not be enrolling until age 7. Authority: Ala. Code §16-28-1, §16-28-3 and §16-28-7(1975) Amended by Alabama Act 2014-245, p. 785, §4, eff. 7/1/2014



Permissible Absences - Excuses must be submitted within 3 days of return

Absences may be excused for the following reasons:

1. Student illness;
2. Inclement weather which make it dangerous to attend school;
3. Legal quarantine;
4. Death in the immediate family;
5. Emergency conditions as determined by the principal or superintendent;
6. Observance of a traditional religious holiday of local, national, or international origin when verified by the student's minister or religious leader.



A parent can only excuse **7 days** per year with a parent note. In addition, a parent note can also be used to excuse **a total of 7 checkins/outs** per year.

Truancy vs. Chronic Absence

TRUANCY

- Counts only unexcused absences
- Emphasizes compliance with school rules
- Relies on legal and administrative solutions

VS.

CHRONIC ABSENCE

- Counts all absences: excused, unexcused, and suspensions
- Emphasizes academic impact of missed days
- Uses community-based, positive strategies

7 or more unexcused absences counts as **Truancy** and can be referred to the court.

18 or more total absences counts as **Chronic Absence** and affects the School Report Card

Source for attendance images is <https://www.attendanceworks.org/>