

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

Welcome to Hunter Elementary and the Wake County Public School System. We are glad to have your family and child as a part of our school family! This letter is to inform you about North Carolina state law and Wake County School Policy regarding attendance.

Did you know that North Carolina has a Compulsory Attendance Law? NC GS115-C378 states that parents are responsible for making sure that their children up to age 16 attend school regularly. If a student is unable to attend school for any reason, parents must send a written note or email to the teacher within two days explaining the reason.

Sample Note

Dear Teacher,

Please excuse Maria from school on Friday, October 16, 2015. She was home sick with a fever.

Signed, Mr. Parent

If you do not provide a note to the teacher, your child's absence will be marked as unlawful and unexcused.

You will receive a notice if your child's absences are excessive. Please contact Trinity Pellas, School Social Worker, if you have a family situation that prevents your child from being able to get to school regularly.

What sorts of absences are excused under the law?

- 1) Illness or injury that makes the student physically unable to attend school
- 2) Death in the family
- 3) Medical and psychological appointments that are unable to be scheduled outside of school hours
- 4) Religious observances
- 5) Educational travel approved in advance by the principal (You must fill out a form available in the office in advance of your travel)

Examples of some reasons that are unlawful and unexcused include missing school due to:

- 1) Non-school-sponsored lessons or competitions (horseback riding, swimming, piano, etc)
- 2) Other family members being ill or having appointments
- 3) Cold or rainy weather
- 4) Missing the bus or lack of transportation

What happens if my child misses too much school? Unlawful absences may result in a parent being charged in the court system for failure to comply with the NC Compulsory Attendance Law. Also, your child may be retained due to high numbers of days out of school.

Who do I contact for more information or for help with attendance problems? Trinity Pellas, School Social Worker – 919-856-7676 Ext 21047 or tpellas@wcpss.net