



COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA RELATIONS
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DATE: May 18, 2009

CONTACT: Dr. Laurel Thompson, Director, School Social Work & Attendance,
754-321-2490

**SUBJECT: DISTRICT ANNOUNCES CHANGE TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY
REGARDING MAKE-UP WORK**

Regular school attendance is vitally important to a student's academic achievement. It is important that both parents and students be familiar with Broward County Public Schools Attendance Policy.

Beginning with the 2009/10 school year, make-up work for credit and grade will be allowed for all excused absences, including suspensions. In the case of a suspension, it will be the student's responsibility to obtain assignments. All work will be due on the day the student returns to school. Due to statutory promotion requirements to high school and the impact on course recovery, all middle school students will be allowed to make-up work for credit and grade for excused and unexcused absences.

Both excused and unexcused absences along with tardiness and early sign-outs will continue to be counted when determining a student's pattern of non-attendance during the 2009/10 school year. A student has a "pattern of non-attendance" if he or she is absent from school a total of 30 hours (5 days) in any one marking period or 60 hours (10 days) within 90 days.

If a child has unexcused absences, excused absences without acceptable documentation, tardies or early sign-outs that add up to a "pattern of non-attendance," and it is clear that the absences are a sign of early truant behavior, consequences may be imposed. Consequences may range, for an elementary age student, from having his or her report card withheld if they were in school for less than 25 days in a marking period, to the child's parent being required to appear in court.

Middle and high school students who have a "pattern of non-attendance" may also face consequences. A student could be required to repeat a class; could be referred to Children In Need of Services (CINS) or Families In Need of Services (FINS); could have their driver's license suspended or be prevented from obtaining a driver's license; or the student's parents could be required to appear in court.

It is important for parents receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) payments from the state to know that if their child has a pattern of non-attendance, payments may be suspended.

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Parents should carefully review and sign the copy of the Code of Student Conduct they will receive at the beginning of the school year. Information regarding attendance policy changes can be found on the School Social Work and Attendance Department's Web site (www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentssupport/school_social_work_services/contacts.html). Parents with questions about the policy should contact their home school or the School Social Work and Attendance Department, 754-321-2490.

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Broward County Public Schools is the nation's sixth largest public school system and the largest fully accredited district with over 255,000 students in more than 280 schools and education centers.

