



Compulsory School Attendance Law

As the new school year begins, the **Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement** would like to remind area parents about the law governing school attendance.

Under the **Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law**, parents and guardians are required to enroll their child/ren in a public, private or home school. This law applies to children who have reached the age of five (5) and have not exceeded the age of seventeen (17) by September 1 of the calendar year.

Parents interested in teaching their children at home (**home school**) are required to contact the School Attendance Officer in their area to complete a **certificate of enrollment**.

The School Attendance Officer will make parental contact after the child misses **five (5) unexcused days** from school and may **file a petition in court** on or after the **twelfth (12) unexcused absence**.

Any parent, guardian or custodian who fails to comply with the law *may* be fined up to \$1,000.00 and/or jailed for violation of the Compulsory School Attendance Law.

******Parents are encouraged to turn in all excuses to your child/ren's school upon their return to school. Check your student's handbook for district requirements for excuses.***

For more information, you may call:

Paul L. McCollough
School Attendance Officer/MDE
Phone: 662-334-2758

Yolanda Alexander
School Attendance Officer/MDE
Phone: 662-334-2689

Emerus Addison
School Attendance Officer/MDE
Phone: 662: 334-2774