

VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION: PLEASE READ **IMMEDIATELY**

The following new DeKalb County School policies are required to be implemented in every DeKalb County School starting with the first day of classes. Rainbow Elementary School is required to follow these policies as written. These policies are also included in the Code of Conduct booklet.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:

- 1st and 2nd unexcused absences: Teacher will call the parent.
- 3rd unexcused absence: Counselor will call the parent.
- 4th unexcused absence: Counselor will meet with the parents.
- 5th unexcused absence: Counselor will again meet with the parents and inform them of the legal consequences.
- 6th unexcused absence: Counselor will send a letter home officially informing the parents, in writing, of the legal consequences for continued absences.
- 7th unexcused absence: Counselor will write another letter home informing the parents that a referral to the school social worker will be made at the next occurrence of an unexcused absence, which could lead to possible referral to Juvenile Court, Solicitor-General's Office, DFACS, or other agency.
- School days missed as a result of an out of school suspension shall not count as unexcused days.
- Excused absences are: illness, death in the family, religious holiday, instances which attendance could be hazardous as determined by DeKalb County School System. Anything other than these is considered an UNEXCUSED absence. Absences for which the parent had not called the school or sent in a note, will be considered unexcused.

New State Law: State law indicates that any parent/guardian who does not comply with compulsory attendance mandates (O.C.G.A. 20-2-690. 1[a]) shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine not less than \$25.00 and not greater than \$100.00, imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, community service, or any combination of such penalties, at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction. Each day's absence from school in violation of this part after the child's school system notifies the parent/guardian of five unexcused days of absences shall constitute a separate offense (O.C.G.A. 20-2-690.1[b]).

CHRONIC TARDINESS

Students must be **IN** their classrooms by the 7:50 a.m. bell, and not just in the building. We will be using an Atomic Clock to determine tardiness. This unique clock receives and displays the most precise and accurate time, which originates from the official national timepiece at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Atomic Clock in Boulder, Colorado. This NIST radio station, WWVB, continuously broadcasts this accurate time signal across the continental U.S. This radio-controlled clock sets itself automatically by receiving the WWVB signal. This is the same frequency used by the United States government and NASA. An Atomic clock can be purchased at Walmart, Sam's Club, and other similar stores.

DeKalb County Schools' Chronic Tardiness Policy

- 1st and 2nd tardies: teacher calls parent.
- 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th tardies: student receives 1 day of detention (silent lunch, miss art/music/recess, etc.) for each offense. Counselor calls parent.
- 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th tardies: Discipline referral is made and student receives one day of In-School Suspension (ISS) for each offense. Parents come to school for a conference.
- 11th day of tardiness: ISS pending a local formal hearing. Parents are contacted and a referral is made to the social worker. Actions may include 10 days of ISS, alternative school placement, or comparable consequence.