

**TALBOT COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MD 21601**

**POLICY CODE: 10.2
ADOPTED: 11/11/92
ADOPTED: 05/21/14
ADOPTED: 05/21/14
ADOPTED: 06/15/22
ADOPTED: 07/17/24**

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

- I. Students must attend school regularly in order for meaningful instruction to occur. Public School Law 7-301 and (COMAR) 13A.08.01.01A state that "each child who resides in this State and is 5 years old or older and under 18 shall attend a public school regularly during the entire school year unless the child is otherwise receiving regular thorough instruction during the school year in the studies usually taught in the public schools to children of the same age."
- II. Regular school attendance is necessary to meet the educational needs of all students, and increases the student's opportunity for greater academic and social success. A healthy school environment is necessary for high student and staff attendance rates. A healthy school environment is affected by compliance with laws and regulations which promote the health and well-being of students and staff.
Therefore, the Talbot County Board of Education's goal is that each student will want to attend school everyday and, as a result, an attendance rate of at least 94% will be achieved annually by each school.
- III. To realize this desired outcome, the Talbot County Board of Education recognizes the need, under law, to balance and pursue appropriate incentives for good attendance with penalties for truancy. For example, under COMAR 13A.08.01.05B(7) each student should be rewarded for regular attendance. However, under Public School Law § 7-301, any person who has legal custody or care and control of a child who is 5 years old or older and under 18 who fails to see that the child attends school or receives instruction under this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to consequences outlined in the law.

The Board directs the administration to develop regulations to implement this policy.