



# Mobile County PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## Chronic Ailment Statement / Physician's Statement of Illness; Instructions

The parent/guardian of any student who has a chronic illness or condition that may cause the student to miss school can provide a Physician's Statement of Illness verifying the child's condition and that the absences are necessary.

The Physician's Statement of Illness must be provided to the school at the beginning of each semester. The Physician's Statement of Illness will automatically expire at the end of the semester.

A copy of the Physician's Statement of Illness should be forwarded to the teacher, attendance officer and school nurse. The original should be filed in the cumulative folder and/or scanned into the student's DocuShare folder.

When the student is absent, the parent/guardian is required to send an excuse to explain why the student was absent. If the absence is due to the condition stated in the Physician's Statement of Illness, the parent may simply write, "See doctor's letter". Failure of the parent/guardian to provide the school with excuses may result in unexcused absence accumulation and referral to Juvenile Court.

Once the anticipated number of absences have been exceeded, and/or the requirement for returning to the physician's office is met, a physician's excuse will be required to return to school.

If at any time the administration or teacher questions a student's absences or the Physician's Statement of Illness, please speak with your school nurse to verify illnesses and follow up.

The Physician's Statement of Illness should include the following:

- Written on the physician's / medical office letterhead
- Include signature of physician
- List diagnosis
- Offer anticipated number of absences (example: 3-4 days)
- Inform us of requirement for returning to the physician's office (example: after 3 absences)
- Provide list of any physical limitations the student may have in getting to school. (example: late or absent on cold days below 50 degrees)