



Mobile County PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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SUPERINTENDENT Martha L. Peek

Dear Parents and Physicians / Health Care Providers:

To better serve our students and promote each child attending and participating in school, Ms. Peek, Superintendent and Dr. Bernard Eichold, Health Officer of Mobile County Health Department have been working together to address chronic illnesses and absences. We would like for all children to come to school each day ready to learn. However, some children often need to be late or absent due to medical conditions beyond their control.

To better assist in helping children remain in school unless absolutely necessary, we are changing our **Chronic Ailment Statement** protocol to a **Physician's Statement of Illness** protocol beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. We will no longer provide parents with a Chronic Ailment Statement Form, but will now require the doctors/primary care providers to communicate the chronic needs of students to us by individual letters. The letters will only remain actively on file for one semester. I have enclosed a copy of our new Physician's Statement of Illness protocol so you may fully understand what the letter must address and the Physician's Statement of Illness process.

Terrence Mixon

Executive Director of Student Support Services

251-221-4245

Physician's Statement of Illness

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 talk 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)