Failure to comply with compulsory attendance is a violation of Virginia Code Section 22.1-254 and may lead to the following consequences for poor school attendance:

1. A summons to court for the parent(s) and/or guardian(s);
2. A petition to court for the child(ren);
3. Possible $500 fine per child;
4. Jail time for failure to follow the judge’s order;
5. Reduction of the amount of TANF check; and
6. Eviciton, if you reside in public housing.

Remember PARENT(S), it is your responsibility to make sure your child attends school on a regular basis and reports to school on time. The Hopewell Compulsatory Attendance Team (H.C.A.T.) will be making home visits as necessary to verify your child’s absence. The H.C.A.T. consists of the Attendance Officers, School Resource Officer and a Court Services representative.

Here are a few other important reminders:

***Excused Absences:***

1. If your child is absent due to personal illness, court, medical reasons, or a death in the family, you must call the school’s attendance secretary. (Family emergencies are only excused with a note on a case-by-case basis). Upon your child’s return to school. You must provide the school with a signed written note.
2. The written note must include the date of the absence(s) and the reason(s) for the absence(s).
3. After two consecutive days missed from school due to a medical reason or illness, you must provide the school with a doctor’s note.

***Excused Tardies are accepted when your child produces:***

1. A signed medical note
2. Proof of a court appearance
3. A signed note from you verifying your child’s personal illness.

You must provide the school with written documentation for all absences and tardies! Even if you have called the school, a written note must be provided as well.

Please feel free to contact the Attendance Officer below, assigned to your child’s school for assistance and counseling and if you have any questions.

Brenda Pelham Rashida Brown

Attendance Officer Attendance Officer

Hopewell High School Carter G Woodson Middle

Patrick Copeland Elementary DuPont Elementary

Woodlawn Alternative Education Harry E. James Elementary

Lead Center (804)541-6404

(804) 541-6402