

Notice Regarding New South Carolina Chronic Absenteeism Policy

Dear District 50 Families,

As we begin a new school year, we want to make you aware of the chronic absenteeism policy that South Carolina has implemented this school year. Under the guidance of the federal Office of Civil Rights, the South Carolina Department of Education is now requiring all SC school districts to report students who are “chronically absent.” Research shows that students with a history of “chronic absenteeism” face a serious risk of falling behind in school. This makes it more difficult for these students to succeed in the classroom.

According to the office of Civil Rights (OCR), the attendance requirements are:

- *Any student who is absent a minimum of 10 percent of his or her enrollment period in the current school—for any reason (e.g. illness, suspensions, excused or unexcused)—is considered chronically absent.*
- *An absent student is one who misses 50 percent of the instructional day for any reason, regardless of whether the absence is excused or unexcused.*

Although our schools are required to report chronic absenteeism to the state, this will not impact Greenwood School District 50 attendance policy.

We appreciate your understanding as we implement and adhere to this new state chronic absenteeism requirement.

September 20, 2017