



BE READY DAY ONE!

We can all help students start strong, stay strong this school year



Did you know that a child who misses just two school days a month is considered chronically absent? Or that chronic absences count against Birmingham City Schools on state report cards AND in state funding?

Far more important, though, is that chronic absences hurt students.

Learning happens in steps. When students miss a step, they can fall behind and find it increasingly hard to catch up.

BCS has worked hard since 2023 to reduce chronic absenteeism from 25% to 14%.

Please help keep this trend going and make sure every student is in school on Aug. 7, and ready to learn on day one. Here are a few tips:

- Register if you haven't already.
- Start adjusting bedtimes and wake-up times.
- Get supplies and backpacks together.
- Talk to your children about school and any concerns they have.



School Board
Aug. 12 & Aug. 26

The board meets at
5:30 p.m. at the
central office
building.



Institute
Aug. 6

All employees will be at
Bill Harris Arena from 9-11
a.m. to kick off the new
school year.



Back to School
Aug. 7

Be ready day one for the start
of a new school year! Register
your children now to help us
be ready, too.

SCENES FROM DISTRICT 4

There's no such thing as summer break for BCS leaders! Recent highlights include:

- Joining the inaugural Wisdom of Woodlawn (W.O.W.) Forum honoring our most recent graduating class.
- Being with the Wilkerson Middle School girls cheer squad at the RESTORE Games.
- Honoring Inglenook STEM Teacher Rhett Franklin and Inglenook Bookkeeper Precious Marcus for their exemplary work.
- Attending the grand opening of the Martha Gaskins Early Learning Annex.



DISTRICT 4 NEWS

State-mandated changes to phone policy go into effect

BCS students will face new restrictions regarding use of cell phones and other wireless devices during the school day starting this fall.

The rules are required by state law. The goal is to reduce distractions and improve learning, but we recognize this will be an adjustment for students AND parents. The flyers below provide more detail.

THE FOCUS ACT

WHAT THE NEW ALABAMA LAW SAYS ON WIRELESS DEVICES IN SCHOOLS

WHAT'S BANNED DURING THE INSTRUCTIONAL DAY?

- Cellular devices
- iPads, Kindle Fire, Tablets
- Laptops
- Smartwatches
- Smart Glasses
- Gaming Devices
- Pagers
- Air Pods-type devices

*Any other electronic device that can exchange voice commands, messaging or data communication

WHAT WILL BE ALLOWED?

- School-issued devices only

WANT MORE INFO? SCAN HERE



WHEN WILL THIS BEGIN?

- The Focus Act applies to **ALL** schools in the State of Alabama beginning with the **2025-2026 school year**.
- According to the new law and the Internet Safety Policy, all students will be required to complete a social media safety course prior to entering 8th-grade.

Students can not use, operate or possess a wireless communication device during the instructional day.

HOW DOES BCS DEFINE INSTRUCTIONAL DAY?

- When school is open and in session
- During class time, lunch, transitions between classes and any non-instructional periods; and
- Any other times students are required to do so by the Code of Conduct or are instructed to do so by the school staff.

EXCEPTIONS TO POLICY

- Student has an IEP/504 Plan requiring a device
- Device is needed for a documented medical condition
- Device is approved under school personnel supervision
- Use of device is approved for an emergency



LA LEY FOCUS

LO QUE DICE LA NUEVA LEY DE ALABAMA SOBRE LOS DISPOSITIVOS INALÁMBRICOS EN LAS ESCUELAS

¿QUÉ ESTÁ PROHIBIDO DURANTE LA JORNADA ESCOLAR?

- Dispositivos celulares
- iPads, Kindle Fire, tabletas
- Computadoras portátiles
- Relojes inteligentes
- Gafas inteligentes
- Dispositivos de juego
- Bipers
- Dispositivos tipo Air Pods

*Cualquier otro dispositivo electrónico que pueda intercambiar comandos de voz, mensajería o comunicación de datos

¿QUÉ ESTARÁ PERMITIDO?

Solo dispositivos proporcionados por la escuela

¿QUIERE MÁS INFORMACIÓN? ESCANEE AQUÍ



¿CUÁNDO COMENZARÁ ESTO?

- La Ley Focus se aplica a **TODAS** las escuelas del estado de Alabama a partir del año escolar 2025-2026.
- De acuerdo con la nueva ley y la Política de Seguridad en Internet, todos los estudiantes deberán completar un curso de seguridad en las redes sociales antes de ingresar al octavo grado.
- Los estudiantes no pueden usar, operar o poseer un dispositivo de comunicación inalámbrica durante la jornada escolar.

¿CÓMO DEFINE BCS LA JORNADA ESCOLAR?

- Cuando la escuela está abierta y en sesión
- Durante el tiempo de clase, el almuerzo, las transiciones entre clases y cualquier período no instructivo; y
- En cualquier otro momento en que el Código de Conducta requiera que los estudiantes lo hagan o el personal de la escuela les indique que lo hagan.

EXCEPCIONES A LA POLÍTICA

- El estudiante tiene un Plan IEP/504 que requiere un dispositivo
- El dispositivo es necesario por una condición médica documentada
- El dispositivo está aprobado bajo la supervisión del personal escolar
- El uso del dispositivo está aprobado para una emergencia



Derrick Billups
School Board
District 4

dbillups@bhm.k12.al.us

*"Education is the key to unlocking the world,
a passport to freedom."*

– Oprah Winfrey



Birmingham City Schools | 2015 Park Place North, Birmingham, AL 35203
For more information, 205.231.4600 www.bhamcityschools.org