



## **TEENAGE AND ADULT DRIVER RESPONSIBILITY ACT (TAADRA)**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. How many unexcused absences may a student have before he or she is reported as non-compliant?**

A *Certificate of Non-Compliance* should be submitted when a student has ten or more unexcused absences in the current academic year or ten or more unexcused absences in the previous academic year.

**2. Can tardiness and partial-day absences be equated to an unexcused absence?**

State Board Rule 160-5-1-.02 defines a school day as “the period between the time students are required to be present and their dismissal.” This time period is specified by local boards of education. Although there is no statewide definition of “unexcused absence,” State Board Rule 160-5-1-.10 delineates absences which all schools must consider excused. It also provides that school days missed as a result of an out-of-school suspension shall not count as unexcused.

**3. If a student is enrolled in a public school and doesn’t show up on the first day of the new school year, when do you start counting unexcused absences?**

Without any evidence to the contrary, if the student was enrolled the previous year, it is assumed that the student is still enrolled. Therefore, a school should start counting after the first unexcused absence.

**4. May I submit noncompliance data for 14 year olds?**

Yes. Schools may submit non-compliance data on 14-year-olds.

**5. What about out-of-state students who wish to obtain a Certificate of Attendance?**

It shall be the responsibility of the student’s parent or guardian to provide for the transmission of attendance and discipline records in order to be eligible for a *Certificate of Attendance*. An official record of attendance must be received before a *Certificate of Attendance* can be prepared.

**6. Is there a statute of limitations for submitting non-compliance data?**

No. Non-compliance data can be submitted at any time when the information will impact the student’s eligibility to possess a driver’s license or instruction permit. However, the non-compliance date listed should be date that the infraction occurred, not the date when the data was transmitted.

**7. What are the criteria for determining a non-compliant student?**

A non-compliant student is one who:

- Has dropped out of school without graduating and has remained out of school for ten consecutive school days;
- Has ten or more school days of unexcused absences in the current academic year or ten or more school days of unexcused absences in the previous academic year;
- Has been found in violation by a hearing officer, panel, or tribunal of one of the following offenses, has received a change in placement for committing one of the following offenses, or has waived his or her right to a hearing and pleaded guilty to one of the following offenses:
  - Threatening, striking, or causing bodily harm to a teacher or other school personnel;
  - Possession or sale of drugs or alcohol on school property or at a school sponsored event;
  - Possession or use of a weapon on school property or at a school sponsored event (The term weapon is defined by Georgia Code Section 16-11-127.1 but shall not include any part of an archeological or cultural exhibit brought to school in connection with a school project.);
  - Any sexual offense prohibited under Georgia law (Chapter 6 of Title 16);
  - Causing substantial physical or visible bodily harm to or seriously disfiguring another person, including another student.

**8. If a student withdraws from school and enters a G.E.D. preparation course, how does the student get a Certificate of Attendance?**

The Department of Technical and Adult Education is responsible for compliance and non-compliance data for students who drop out of public, private, or home school to pursue a general educational development (GED) program. [www.dtae.org/adultlit/ged.html](http://www.dtae.org/adultlit/ged.html), 800-946-9433.

- 9. Should a school submit a Certificate of Non-Compliance for a student who drops out of school to enroll in a G.E.D. preparation course?**  
Yes. Schools should submit a *Certificate of Non-Compliance* for any student who drops out of school without graduating and has remained out of school for ten consecutive school days. Students who are enrolled in a G.E.D. preparation course may have their license reinstated by submitting a “*Petition for Hardship Exemption*” to the Department of Driver Services (DDS) along with proof of enrollment.
- 10. Who is responsible for issuing the Certificate of Attendance for students in the K-12 school system?**  
The local system/school should designate someone to handle this responsibility.
- 11. Who is responsible for submitting non-compliance data?**  
Local TAADRA coordinators are responsible for collecting non-compliance data from public schools, private schools, and home schools and submitting the data to the state using the electronic web application.
- 12. What happens after non-compliance data has been submitted?**  
After receiving non-compliance data, the Department of Driver Services will notify the student by certified mail, return receipt requested, that a *Certificate of Non-Compliance* has been received and that his or her permit/license is suspended.
- 13. What are the responsibilities of the Georgia Department of Education (GDOE) in regards to the TAADRA law?**  
The GDOE shall provide technical assistance and answer questions regarding implementation of the law. The GDOE will also transmit non-compliance data to DDS. GDOE serves only as a transmission agent. We do not retain non-compliance data.
- 14. When can a student’s driver’s license or learner’s permit be reinstated after non-compliance data has been submitted?**  
A student can reapply for his or her instruction permit or driver’s license after a period of one year or when the student becomes 18 years old, whichever comes first.
- 15. Where can I find a copy of the TAADRA law?**  
The TAADRA law (Georgia Code Section 40-5-22) can be found at the following website:  
[http://www.legis.state.ga.us/cgi-bin/gl\\_codes\\_detail.pl?code=40-5-22](http://www.legis.state.ga.us/cgi-bin/gl_codes_detail.pl?code=40-5-22)
- 16. Should public schools submit a Certificate of Non-Compliance if a home school official fails to submit monthly attendance reports to the local superintendent as required by law?**  
Yes. Home school officials are required by law to submit monthly attendance reports to the local school superintendent (O.C.G.A. 20-2-690). Although students who are age 16 and older are no longer under compulsory attendance laws, monthly attendance reports must be submitted to the local school superintendent if the student wishes to obtain a driver’s license or instructional permit. Public schools shall issue a *Certificate of Non-Compliance* if a home school official fails to submit monthly attendance reports as required by law. Home school officials may also submit a paper *Certificate of Non-Compliance* by completing the form and submitting it to the local school superintendent.
- 17. Who completes non-compliance data for private schools?**  
An administrator at the private school should complete a paper *Certificate of Non-Compliance* and submit it to the TAADRA coordinator in the public school system in which the child resides.
- 18. Who can I contact if I have questions about TAADRA?**  
For technical questions pertaining to electronic submission of non-compliance data, contact Information Technology Customer Support by email at [dticket@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dticket@doe.k12.ga.us), or by telephone at 800-869-1011. For questions pertaining to appeals, hardship exemptions or reinstatements, contact the Department of Driver Services by telephone at (404) 657-9300. For questions pertaining to implementation of the TAADRA law, please contact Ask DOE at (404) 656-2800 or [askdoe@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:askdoe@doe.k12.ga.us).