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## Count Yourself In: Encouraging Students to Take the 180-Day Challenge

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# "Count Yourself In"

An Attendance Initiative through Bibb County Public Schools

Office of Student Affairs



## THE 180 DAY CHALLENGE:

**ATTEND SCHOOL, EVERY DAY! ALL DAY! ON TIME!**

## Did You Know???

- ◇ According to the Georgia Department of Education Attendance Report for 2010-2011 school year, 34% of the student population in Bibb County had been absent from 6-15 days. 11.7% of students had been absent 15 or more days from school.
- ◇ Data shows in Bibb County School District, there are more high school students who missed 15 or more days from school in 2013-2014 than there are May 2014 high school graduates.

## TAKE ACTION!

A District Wide Attendance Campaign; "Count Yourself In", was implemented which served as a concerted effort to help decrease truancy in the Bibb County School District through:

### Education, Motivation, Communication and Collaboration!

**Education:** Utilize a curriculum that integrates attendance focused activities with the appropriate grade level Common Core Georgia Performance Standards.

**Motivation:** Motivate students through incentive programs such as: "Friendly competitions", family and parent involvement, etc.

**Communication:** Communicate attendance policies and procedures with parents through parent nights and school functions, calling tree announcements and other correspondence, through social media by launching Attendance Awareness month, "Count Yourself In", Facebook page and Twitter Account, posting school attendance posters, flyers/ fact sheets in community agencies, through an official City Proclamation during Attendance Awareness Month.

**Collaboration:** Collaborate with community partners to help spread the word of the importance of school attendance, local businesses to provide incentives for students and families and local medical/health providers to include in well check exams information about the importance of school attendance child development.



**Results: 51% of BCSD saw a decrease in school absences during the implementation month of September 2014.**