Dear Parents and Guardians,

I understand that the revised attendance protocols for Bryan County Schools have drawn some concern from the community, but I wanted to provide some additional information for our Lanier family, parents, and students. To be clear, it is important to understand that Lanier faculty, staff, and I fully support the revised expectations that have been put in place.  As principal of Lanier Primary School, I can firmly attest to the fact that our faculty is dedicated to providing the best educational experience possible for all of our students. However, attendance, tardies, and early checkouts have been identified as areas of concern. In fact, last year, almost 59% of our students at LPS missed 6 or more days of school. I think we can all agree that this is an area that needs to be improved. The revised protocols should help support efforts to improve student attendance.

The State of Georgia College and Career Ready Performance Index is a tool used by the Georgia Department of Education to communicate how well schools are performing.  CCRPI takes many data points into account, one of which is the school’s attendance rate.  As a school, and as a district, we have identified school attendance as an area for improvement. In addition to CCRPI, there are state attendance guidelines and laws that are in place to support daily attendance at school.  You can read and review a significant amount of information about this on the Georgia Department of Education website.  I am including a link to that page below for your convenience.

Based on the response following the release of the updated attendance guidelines, there are many of you who would be willing to be actively involved in helping LPS ensure that we have the most effective practices in place to support exemplary daily attendance at school, on-time arrival, and decreased early checkouts. In the coming weeks, LPS will host a meeting to discuss student attendance, and I encourage you to come and be a part of this conversation.

Thank you for your involvement and support.  I look forward to working with you to improve our student attendance and to make sure our school-based practices are effective and well communicated.

Dr. Eileen Emerson

Principal

Lanier Primary School

Link to GADOE: [http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/Student-Attendance-Guidance.aspx](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttp://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/Student-Attendance-Guidance.aspx%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1500914588792000%26amp;usg%3DAFQjCNF3yh55i5bBGA1owN-UEuQc1oAp_Q&sa=D&ust=1500914588796000&usg=AFQjCNE0DDd8vplxkzcX_-bfCKBZRnTrGQ)