



SUES STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Virtual Learning Edition

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

The Sayreville Board of Education believes that the regular attendance of students is critical to its educational mission. **Research shows that student absences impact a child's ability to succeed in school. There is also evidence that chronic absenteeism from school is a primary cause of low academic achievement and a powerful predictor of a student's risk of dropping out of school.**

The New Jersey Department of Education only allows 5 reasons for a school to report an absence as "excused" on a student's attendance record:

1. **Religious observance;**
2. **College visit (grades 11&12);**
3. **Take Our Children to Work Day;**
4. **Observance of Veterans Day;**
5. **Closure of a busing district that prevents a student from having transportation to the receiving school.**

CONTACT

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According to Sayreville Board of Education Policy #5113, as well as New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:32-8.3, students must be present for **4 hours of instruction** in order to be considered "present" for the day. This does not count lunch/recess.

Because we are currently using an early-dismissal schedule that has students attend school from 8:30am-1:00pm, which is 4 ½ hours and includes a 30 minute lunch period, students must be logged on to their class Google Meet or Webex video conference for the entire day in order to be present for 4 hours of instruction.

Students that log on after 8:30 am or log off prior to 1:00 pm will be marked absent since they will not be present for 4 hours of instruction.

If there are extenuating circumstances, such as technology issues, that are preventing your child from being logged in to a Google Meet or Webex for the duration of the school day, please communicate the issue to your child's teacher via email as soon as possible.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

An appointment with a doctor should be made after 1:00 pm whenever possible to avoid your child being marked absent. If your child must log off during instructional hours for an appointment with a doctor, please send a photo/scan of the doctor's note to your child's teacher as soon as possible so that your child's absence can be logged appropriately.

Please know that teacher office hours cannot take the place of instructional hours, nor can they be used to make up for lost time during the school day.

According to Sayreville Board of Education Policy #5113 – Regardless if absences are listed as excused or unexcused in the policy, a student must be in attendance for 162 or more school days in order to be considered to have successfully completed the instructional program requirements of the grade to which he/she is assigned. Failure to have attended at least 162 school days may result in student retention.