



## ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

The 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 State 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

Mr. Richard Tola  
Vice Principal

PHONE:  
732-316-4050

EMAIL:  
Richard.Tola@sayrevillek12.net

# SUES STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Attendance Matters - Avoid Chronic Absenteeism!

Chronic Absenteeism is defined as missing 10 percent or more of the school year.

Students must be present for four (4) hours of instruction in order to be marked "present" for the 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.**

## EXCUSED ABSENCES

A school may "excuse" an absence for the following reasons:

- Student illness (documented by a MD note);
- Requirements of a student's individual health care plan;
- A death or critical illness in the student's immediate family;
- Quarantine;
- Observance of the student's religion on a day approved by the State Board of Education;
- The student's suspension from school;
- Requirement of the student's Individualized Education Program;
- Accommodations for students with disabilities;
- The student's required attendance in court;
- Interviews with an admissions officer of an educational institution;
- Necessary and unavoidable medical or dental appointments that cannot be scheduled at a time other than the school day;
- Such good cause that may be acceptable to the principal.

**Please note that while these absences do not count toward truancy, they must be reported as "unexcused" to the State Department of Education and will still count toward your child being chronically absent. Only a state-approved excuse can change your child's attendance record. See the list of state-approved excuses on the left hand side of this document.**

## UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Absence is expressly not excused for any of the following purposes:

- Family Travel;
- Performance of household or babysitting duties;
- Other daytime activities unrelated to the school program.

## TRUANCY

A student between the ages of six and sixteen will also be considered truant if he or she has accumulated unexcused absences of 10 or more.