

Student Attendance

In accordance with the provisions of a N.J.S.A 18A: 38 - 25, every parent, guardian, or other person having control and custody of a child between the ages of six and sixteen shall cause a child to regularly attend school. The Board of Education requires students enrolled in the school district attend school regularly in accordance with the laws of the state. A student must be in attendance for 165 or more school days in order to be considered to have successfully completed the instructional program requirements of the grade/course to which he/she is assigned.

The New Jersey Commissioner of education has stated:

“Frequent absences of pupils from regular classroom learning experiences disrupt the continuity any of the instructional process. The benefit of regular classroom instruction is lost and cannot be entirely regained, even by extra after-school instruction is lost and cannot be entirely who miss school frequently experience great difficulty in achieving the maximum benefits of schooling. Indeed, many pupils in these circumstances are able to achieve only mediocre success in their academic programs. The school cannot teach pupils who are not present. The entire process of education requires a regular continuity of instruction, classroom participation, learning experiences, and study in order to reach the goal of maximum educational benefits for each individual child. The regular contact of the pupils with one another in the classroom and their participation and well-planned instructional activity under the tutelage of a competent teacher are vital to this purpose this is the well established principle of education which underlines and gives purpose to the requirement of compulsory schooling in this and every other state in the nation.” (Wheatley et al vs. Board of Education of Burlington, 9/23/74).

A waiver of these attendance requirements may be granted for good cause by the school principal upon recommendation of a review committee, appointed by him/her, and consisting of representatives staff. In recommending the granting of a waiver of this attendance requirement, the review committee shall consider the nature and causes of all absences rather than only those in excess of the 10 days. Documentation of the nature and causes of these absences shall be the responsibility of the student and parent. In accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C 6A: 16-7.6 and for the purposes of this Policy and Regulation 5200, a student's absence from school will be excused or unexcused that counts towards truancy. Students that are absent from school for any reason are responsible for the completion of assignments because of their absence.

A student who is absent from school for observing a religious holiday shall not be deprived of any award, eligibility, or opportunity to compete for any award, or deprived of the right to take an alternate test or examination that was missed because of the absence provided there is a written excuse of such absence signed by the parent. Prolonged or repeated absences, excused or unexcused, from school or from class, deprived students of the educational and classroom experiences deemed essential to learning and may result in retention at grade level in accordance with policies of this board.

Students shall be subjected to the school district's response for unexcused absences that count toward truancy during the school year as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A: 16-7.6(a)4 and Regulation 5200. Unexcused absences from school or from classes within the school day may subject a student to consequences that may include the denial of a student's participation in co-curricular activities and / or athletic competition. Repeated absences from school interfere with efforts of this board and its staff in the maintenance of good order and continuity classroom instruction and such absences may result in the removal of the student from a class or course of study.

“Chronic absenteeism” is defined in New Jersey's ESSA state plan as a percentage of a school's students who are not present for 10% or more of the days that they were “enrolled” in school.