



NEW PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT

LAUREN ZIRPOLI, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
908-464-9050 (ext. 4225)

JOSEPH G. UGLIALORO
Assistant Superintendent of
Educational Services
908-464-9050 (ext. 4222)

JAMES E. TESTA
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary
908-464-9050 (ext. 4223)

JONATHAN E. KEANEY
Director of Curriculum,
Instruction, and Supervision
908-464-9050 (ext. 4221)

356 ELKWOOD AVENUE • NEW PROVIDENCE, NJ 07974 • FAX (908) 464-4813 • www.npsd.k12.nj.us

August 19, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we begin the 2025–2026 school year, we welcome you back and wish all of our students and families a successful and rewarding year ahead. We are deeply committed to supporting the success of every student. One of the most consistent and powerful predictors of student achievement is regular attendance in school. When students are present, they are connected to their classmates, supported by our staff, and positioned to reach their full academic potential. With this in mind, we continue to review our practices to ensure they are aligned with this goal.

After thoughtful collaboration with our school principals, we have made an important revision to our [Attendance Regulation 5200](#), which will take effect at the start of the 2025–2026 school year. **Beginning this school year, student absences due to illness will only be recorded as “Excused” when they are accompanied by a note from a doctor or physician.**

Previously, parents and guardians were able to excuse an illness-related absence with a written note upon the student’s return to school. While we value the partnership and communication we have with our families, this new requirement will provide schools with the proper medical documentation to support student attendance records and to promote improved student attendance in school.

We understand that illnesses are sometimes unavoidable, and we want to reassure you that students who are truly ill should remain home to rest and recover. This regulation is not intended to require a doctor’s visit for every absence. Our policy allows for a significant number of absences before any academic consequences are considered or imposed.

- In grades K–8, students are considered for retention at the same grade level if they are absent 21 or more school days.
- In high school, students are at risk of losing course credit if they miss 10% or more of the days a class meets.

To support families, schools will send attendance notification letters at three key points as a student’s number of absences approaches the established thresholds. This approach maintains flexibility for families while emphasizing the critical role consistent attendance plays in academic growth.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting student success. We value your support. If you have any questions about this change or how it may affect your child, please do not hesitate to contact your school’s main office.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Joseph Uglialoro.

Joseph Uglialoro
Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services
New Providence School District