One Vision. All Students. Wall Together
WALL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent of Schools
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2026-2027

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Regular school attendance is required in New Jersey according to statute (N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25) and Wall Township Board of Education Policy #5200. The law states, "every parent, guardian, or other persons having control and custody of a child between the ages of six and sixteen shall cause the child to regularly attend school."

The district maintains three classifications for recording absences: excused, school district excused that does not count toward truancy, or unexcused that counts toward truancy. Regardless of the reason for the absence or the classification of the absence, students who are absent from school for any reason are responsible for the completion of assignments missed because of their absence.

Excused Absences

An excused absence is a student's absence from school for a full-day or a portion of the day for the observance of a religious holiday pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A: 36 14-16, providing such absence is supported by notification to the school by the student's parent and supported by written communication from the parent. An excused absence, as defined by statute above, is recorded as excused in the student records.

School District Excused Absence That Does Not Count Toward Truancy

A school district excused absence that does not count toward truancy is a student's absence from school for a full-day or a portion of a day for the reasons listed below, providing such absence is supported by notification to the school by the student's parent and supported by written communication from the paren. Additional verification may be required for some absences. A school district excused absence is recorded as absent in the student records. School district excused absences that do not count toward truancy include:

a. The student's illness
b. The student's required attendance in court (verification required)
c. Where appropriate, when consistent with Individualized Education Programs, accommodations under individualized health care plans
d. The student's suspension from school
e. Family illness or death
f. Visits to post-secondary institutions (verification required)
g. Interviews with a prospective employer or with an admissions officer (verification required)
h. Examination for a driver's license (verification required)
i. Necessary and unavoidable medical or dental appointments that cannot be scheduled at a time other than the school day (verification required)
j. *Take Our Children to Work Day*

k. An absence considered excused by a NJDOE ruling

Unexcused Absences That Count Toward Truancy

An unexcused absence that counts toward truancy is a student's absence from school for a full or portion of a day for any reason that is not an excused absence or a school excused absence.

Absences from school for vacations, family travel, babysitting or child care, household duties, hunting, etc. are **unexcused** absences. Any **unverified** absences from school are considered unexcused absences that count towards truancy.

According to Wall Township Board of Education Policy/Regulation #5200, for up to four cumulative **unexcused** absences, the school will notify you and investigate the cause of each unexcused absence as noted above. In addition, a cooperative action plan shall be developed to address any patterns of unexcused absences and to have the child maintain regular attendance. If a potentially missing or abused child situation is detected, the school shall then cooperate with law enforcement and other authorities as appropriate and in accordance with N.J.S. A. 9:6-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:16.

For between five and nine cumulative **unexcused** absences, the school shall follow the procedure noted above and will revise the action plan as needed, including all of the following: refer to consult with the building *Intervention and Referral Services* Team; conduct an evaluation of the student's academic, behavior and health needs; consider an alternate educational placement,; make a referral to a community-based social and health agency; refer to the court program designated by the NJ Administrative Office of the Courts.

For cumulative unexcused absences of ten or more, a student (6-16 years of age) is **truant** according to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-27 and the school ***shall make a mandatory referral to the court program required by the NJ Administrative Office of the Courts***; make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent/guardian of the mandatory referral; continue to consult with the family and the involved agencies, law enforcement, and other appropriate authorities and agencies.

According to Wall Township Board Policy #5200, students absent from school for any reason are responsible for the completion of assignments missed because of their absence. Prolonged or repeated absences, excused or unexcused, from school or from class, deprive the student of the classroom experience deemed essential to learning and may result in retention at that grade level.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain accurate records and to ensure the appropriate education of all students. The letter that you receive from your child(ren)'s school principal will have more specific information regarding the development of a plan for your child to support him or her if attendance has become an issue.

Sincerely,
Dr. David Bleakley
Superintendent of Schools