What is Chronic Absenteeism?

This means a student is missing 10% or more of the school year. This includes both excused and unexcused absences. The school watches this data closely all year long so they can offer help before a student falls too far behind.

Shared Responsibility

Education is a shared responsibility between families and schools.

Families are expected to: Prioritize regular attendance, communicate promptly with the school regarding absences, and collaborate with staff when attendance challenges arise.

The district is committed to: Creating an inclusive environment where students feel safe and valued, tracking data fairly, and providing instructional continuity if a student must be out.

Need Help?

If your child is struggling to attend school consistently, please reach out to your school principal or counselor early. We are here to support you and ensure your child has what they need to thrive.

The full Attendance Policy is available on the district website at

rhnet.org/attendance

or by scanning the QR code.

RUSH-HENRIETTA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

RH

Guiding Student Success

ATTENDANCE POLICY

2026-2027

You Belong Here!

Regular school attendance is an important part of your child's academic success and social-emotional growth. At Rush-Henrietta, we believe every student belongs in school every day, and we are committed to partnering with families to overcome barriers to attendance.

Going to school every day and being on time helps students be successful in school, make friends, connect with teachers, and graduate. Once a child starts kindergarten, they must follow these attendance rules just like the older students.

How the School Helps

If a student starts missing too much school, the district's first step is to work with the family. Teachers, principals, and attendance clerks work together to look at the data, see what is causing the problem, and find ways to help.

Initial Notifications: If a student is absent and the school has not been contacted, an automated phone call will be sent to the family as a reminder to let the school know the reason for the absence.

Outreach: School staff may contact students and families by phone, letter, or home visit when attendance concerns arise.

Additional Support: When attendance concerns continue, the school may connect students and families with supports such as counseling, mentoring, or community resources.

What is an Excused vs. Unexcused Absence?

Every time a student is absent, arrives late, or leaves early, the parent/guardian must notify the school in writing or by calling the attendance line.

Excused Absences: These are valid reasons for missing school. Examples include being **sick**, having a **family illness or death, doctor appointments,** or **religious holidays.**

Unexcused Absences: Missing school for any other reason, or missing school without communication from a parent, counts as unexcused.

Note:

Missing too much school hurts learning. The school will reach out to help you if your child misses too many days, even if the absences are excused!

Arriving Late and Leaving Early

Being on time helps students start the day right. Missing time in school means missing out on learning and connection.

Tardies (Being Late): If a student arrives late without a valid reason, it is marked as a tardy. If a student is late more than 5 times in one marking period, the school will send a letter home to help the family fix the problem.

Signing In (Pre-K to Grade 6): A parent or guardian must walk the student into the office to sign them in. (Older students in grades 7-12 can sign themselves in).

Signing Out (K to Grade 9): A parent or guardian must physically go to the office to sign the student out early. (SHS students may sign themselves out with parent/guardian permission.)