



BAYONNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
669 AVENUE A
BAYONNE, NEW JERSEY 07002

JOHN J. NIESZ
Superintendent

Tel. (201) 858-5817
Fax. (201) 858-6289

September, 2026

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I hope that you had a relaxing summer vacation and an opportunity to spend quality time with friends and family. I know that the teachers have planned an engaging instructional program and the principals are ready to meet the challenges and successes that the new year will bring. As Superintendent, I know of one other factor that you could assist us with that will surely help your child maximize his or her education. That factor is good **ATTENDANCE**.

As we embark on a new school year, I believe that it's important to address the issue of student attendance, a little-known piece of education that has a serious impact on your child's college and career readiness. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10 percent of a school year as a result of unexcused and excused absences. **Research has shown that student attendance affects standardized test scores, academic achievement, graduation, and dropout rates.** According to educational researchers, Balfanz & Byrnes, chronic absenteeism has been identified as the single most important indicator of dropping out of school before graduation.

In the early grades, our youngest learners are building their foundation of reading and math skills. This is a crucial stage in their literacy development. They are learning the rhythm of school, as it becomes a part of their daily routine. Beginning as early as Pre-K and Kindergarten, children who continually miss school are more likely to struggle as they go on, often falling behind in their academic development. In addition, they miss the experience of making new friends and learning to navigate social situations, which is essential to their emotional development.

In the middle grades, our adolescent learners continue to strengthen their foundation in language arts and math. However, at this stage in their education, they are learning to read, comprehend, and analyze increasingly complex texts. Those students with poor attendance often experience difficulty catching up and have fewer opportunities to learn the material they missed because of not being in class. Excessive absences at any grade level, whether they are excused or unexcused, can significantly affect a child's achievement and puts them academically at-risk.

A child does need to stay home when they are truly sick. However, avoid scheduling routine medical appointments during the school day or extended trips while school is in session. I ask that you take the time to familiarize yourself with our district's attendance policy (Board Policy 5200-Attendance).

School is a place for learning, but it is also a place for making new friendships, discovering new interests, and an environment where children are encouraged to reach their full academic potential, building their confidence and self-esteem. These positive experiences play an integral role not only in a child's long-term academic success in school but also in their chosen career.

Sincerely,

John J. Niesz
Superintendent

< Prev

Next >

To Regulation

 [Search District Policies](#)

[District Policies TOC](#)

District Policy

5200 - ATTENDANCE (M)

Section: Students
Date Created: July 1997
Date Edited: April 2023

M

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25, every parent, or other person having control and custody of a child between the ages of six and sixteen shall cause the 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.

For the purpose of this Policy and Regulation 5200, “parent” means the natural parent(s), adoptive parent(s), legal guardian(s), resource family parent(s), or surrogate parent(s) of a student. When parents are separated or divorced, “parent” means the person or agency who has legal custody of the student, as well as the natural or adoptive parent(s) of the student, provided parental rights have not been terminated by a court of appropriate jurisdiction.

Notwithstanding the requirement of reporting student absences in the school register for State and Federal reporting purposes, “excused” and “unexcused” student absences, for the purpose of expectations and consequences regarding truancy, student conduct, promotion, retention, and the award of course credit is a Board decision outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6 and Policy and Regulation 5200. In accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6 and for the purposes of Policy and Regulation 5200, a student’s absence from school will either be excused or unexcused. Unexcused absences will count toward truancy.

A parent or adult student shall provide advance notice to the school prior to the student being absent from school. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-25.6, if a student is determined to be absent from school without valid excuse, and if the reason for the student’s absence is unknown to school personnel, the Principal or designee shall immediately attempt to contact the student’s parent to notify the parent of the absence and determine the reason for the absence.

Students that are absent from school for any reason are responsible for the completion of assignments missed because of their absence. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14, 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, deprive students of the educational and classroom experiences deemed essential to learning and may result in retention at grade level or loss of credit or removal from a course that would count toward the high school diploma 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 the Board and its staff in the maintenance of good order and the continuity of classroom instruction and such absences may result in the removal of the student from a class or course of study.

The Superintendent shall calculate and monitor the average daily attendance rate for the district and for each school in the district. Whenever the average daily attendance rate does not meet the New Jersey Department of Education requirements the Superintendent or designee shall develop a district improvement plan to improve student attendance pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-5.2.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14; 18A:36-25.6; 18A:38-25; 18A:38-25.1;
18A:38-25.2; 18A:38-26
N.J.S.A. 34:2-21.1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6; 6A:30-5.2; 6A:32-8; 6A:32-13

Adopted: 28 July 1997
Revised: 27 March 2007
Revised: September 21st, 2020
Revised: 26 April 2023





Get ready for one of the biggest adventures of your child's life!

School will be starting soon. These tips can help your children look forward to attending school every day.

Did you know that missing just one or two days of preschool or kindergarten every few weeks can make it harder for children to develop reading skills, and to be prepared for first grade?

Adventure Time!

Take your child to visit the school to see the building

- If possible, meet their teacher and visit their classroom!
- Visit with neighbors to see who is going to the same school. It's always fun to have a buddy.
- Explore a pick-up and drop off sharing plan with neighbors, or a "Walking School Bus."
- Respond right away to outreach from your child's teacher. Ask any questions you have!



Story Time!

Tell your child positive stories from when you were a young student

- Make up silly songs about everyday routines: getting up, eating breakfast and going to school.
- Read to your child each night in your home language.
- Books can address children's concerns in playful ways and support conversations.





Get ready for one of the biggest adventures of your child's life!

Habit Time!

Set a standard bed and wake up time a few weeks in advance

- Let children choose what clothes they'd like to wear the next day.
- Routines make everyone feel in control, and that's a good feeling.



Good Health Time!

Make sure your child has the right shots to attend school

- If you are concerned your child may have a contagious illness, call your child's health care provider or school for advice.
- If your child is at high risk for complications from common illnesses, talk to your school about developing a health plan.
- Schedule non-urgent medical appointments and extended trips when preschool is not in session.



Preschool through first grade establishes the foundation for relationship building and life-long learning. Help your child gain comfort, self-confidence and delight in these milestone events.



Help Your Child Succeed in Preschool and Kindergarten

Build the Habit of Good Attendance



Did you know?

Showing up on time, every day possible, is important to your child's learning and well-being from preschool forward.

Missing 10% of school (2 days each month) can make it harder to:

- Gain early reading and math skills.
- Build **relationships**.
- Develop good attendance habits.

Preschool and kindergarten have many benefits!

- The routines your child develops will continue throughout school.
- Regular attendance helps your child **gain confidence, delight in learning** and make **new friends**.



What you can do

Work with your child and their teacher to develop your child's strong attendance.

Talk about it – sing about it – make it an adventure!

- Set a **regular** bedtime and morning **routine**.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks **the night before**.
- Share ideas with **other parents** for getting to school on time.

Before the school year starts

- Find out what **day school starts** and begin a countdown!
- Make sure your child has the **required immunizations**.
- Attend orientation with your child to **meet teachers** and **classmates** and find out about health and safety procedures.

Ready, Set, GO!

- If you are concerned your child may have a contagious illness, **call** your school or health-care provider **for advice**. Ask for resources to continue learning at home.
- Ask family members or neighbors for assistance **if you need help**.
- Try to schedule **nonurgent medical appointments** and extended trips when school is not in session.
- **If** your child seems **anxious** about going to school, **talk to the** teacher, program director, your doctor or other parents **for advice**. Make sure the program is a good fit for your child.



Help Your Child Do Well in School: **Build the Habit of Good Attendance**



Did you know?

- Too many absences in preschool and elementary school can cause children to struggle socially and academically.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Missing 10% of school (2 days each month) can make it harder to learn to read and do basic math.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school — and themselves.

Start building this habit in preschool and through elementary school so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day, is important.



What you can do

- Set a **regular** bedtime and morning **routine**.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks **the night before**.
- **Keep** your child **healthy** and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Develop **backup plans** for getting to school if something comes up.
- **Monitor** your child's **absences**.
- Try to schedule **nonurgent medical appointments** and extended trips when school isn't in session.
- **If** your child seems **anxious** about going to school, **talk to teachers**, school counselors and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- **If** you are **concerned** that your child may have a contagious illness, **call** your school nurse or health-care provider **for advice**. Ask the teacher for ideas to support missed learning time.

Chronic absence is missing 2+ days every month over the course of a school year.

[illegible]



Keep Your Student on Track in Middle and High School

Pay Attention to Attendance

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's social and academic development. Even as children grow more independent, **families play a key role** in making sure students get to school and understand how attendance benefits their health and success in school and beyond.



Did you know?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged and on track to graduation.
- Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is **losing interest** in school, **dealing with a bully** or facing some other difficulty.
- By **6th grade**, chronic absence (missing 10%, or 2 days each month) is one of **three signs that a student may drop out** of high school.
- By **9th grade**, attendance is a **better predictor of graduation** rates than 8th grade test scores.



What you can do

Make school attendance a priority

- **Talk about** the **opportunities** available when your teen or preteen shows up to school every day.
- Help your middle and high schoolers maintain **daily routines**, such as finishing homework and getting enough sleep.
- Consider **limiting** use of **devices** if they interfere with sleep.
- Try not to schedule **nonurgent medical appointments** during the school day.
- Help your student to stay **healthy**.
- If your children must stay home because they are **sick**, make sure they have **asked teachers for materials** to make up for the missed learning time in the classroom.

Help your student stay engaged

- **Find out** if your children **feel engaged** by their classes and whether they **feel safe** from bullies and other threats.
- Make sure your students are not missing class because of challenges with **behavioral issues** or **school discipline policies**. If any of these are problems, contact the school and work with them to find a solution.
- **Monitor** your child's academic progress and seek help from teachers, school counselors or tutors when necessary. Provide teachers with your **contact information**.
- Stay on top of your child's **social contacts**. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage your child to join meaningful **after-school activities**, including sports and clubs.
- **If** you notice signs of **anxiety**, support your middle and high schoolers, and if needed, **seek advice** from your school or health-care provider.

Communicate with the school

- **Know** the school's **attendance policies** both incentives and penalties.
- **Check** on your preteen/teen's **attendance** to make sure absences are not adding up.
- **Seek help** from school staff, other parents or community agencies if you need resources and support.