Tenafly Public Schools
500 Tenafly Road Tenafly,
New Jersey 07670
www.tenaflyschools.org

August, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Tenafly Public School District is committed to providing every student with a comprehensive, rigorous curriculum and diverse, innovative learning opportunities that empower them to achieve and exceed their fullest potential. Even the strongest curriculum, however, can only be effective when students are present and engaged in the classroom.

The implementation of Every **Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** in 2016 required states to place greater emphasis on student attendance as part of the evaluation of public-school districts. The law also led to changes in attendance reporting and established stricter guidelines regarding which absences may be excluded from attendance calculations. This increased focus reflects extensive research demonstrating that regular school attendance is one of the strongest predictors of academic success.

Under ESSA, school districts are required to report student attendance rates annually. In New Jersey, this information is published through the New Jersey School Performance Reports. We are proud that each of the Tenafly Public Schools consistently exceeds the state's benchmark, with student attendance rates above 90%.

We sincerely thank our families for ensuring that students attend school regularly, arrive on time, and come prepared to learn each day. Your continued support is essential to your child's academic achievement and overall growth.

While students should always remain home when they are ill, we encourage families to avoid unnecessary absences whenever possible. The habits students develop now—showing up consistently, being punctual, and honoring commitments—help build the responsibility and work ethic that will serve them well in college, future careers, and throughout their lives.

The information on the following pages explains the legal definition of absence and outlines the impact that absences have on both your child and the school district. We encourage you to review this information with your child and to consider it carefully whenever an absence for reasons other than illness is contemplated.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to your child's success.

Sincerely,

Michael Ben-David J.D./M.ED
Superintendent of Schools