

Research shows that student attendance is directly linked to student academic success.

The Problem:

Across the country, more than 8 million students are missing so many days of school that they are academically at risk. Chronic absence — missing 10 percent or more of school days due to absence for any reason—excused, unexcused absences and suspensions, can translate into third-graders unable to master reading, sixth-graders failing subjects and ninth-graders dropping out of high school.

In 2017-2018 NJDOE reported, 10.6 % of Waterford Township students were considered chronically absent.

The Solution:

Waterford Township Schools are committed to working with parents, students, and the community to decrease the number of chronically absent students.

By working together, all of us — schools, public officials, public agencies, civic organizations, businesses, philanthropic groups, families and students — can ensure all children can get to school every day so they have an opportunity to learn, flourish and realize their dreams.

Waterford Township School District

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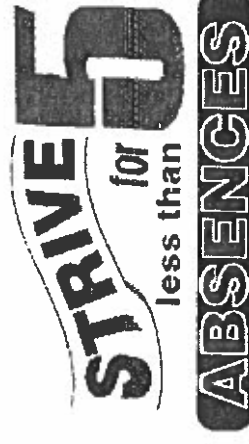
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For more information about how attendance can impact your child and community, please visit attendanceworks.org



Attendance Policy and Procedures



State vs. District Policy

District Procedure

NJDOE - Excused and Unexcused Absences

Excused absence:

A student's absence from school for a full day or a portion of a day for the observance of a **religious holiday** or for **Take Your Child to Work Day**.

Unexcused absence:

A student's absence from school for a full or a portion of a day for **any reason** that is not excused as defined above.

DISTRICT REGULATION

Three categories of absences:

Level 1:

Unexcused absence-

No communication or explanation provided to the school

Level 2:

Parent authorized absences-

Communication to the school that the student will be out sick. This then requires a doctor's note backdated after more than two days have lapsed from the student's absence.

Level 3:

Excused absence with documentation-

There may or may not be communication to the school. The parent/guardian provides a Doctor's note upon returning to school after illness. This may also include paperwork for court attendance, suspension, family death/illness, etc.

Days Absent : 1-4 (level 1) OR 10 (cumulative/all levels)

- Phone call home

Days Absent : 5-9 (level 1) OR 12 (cumulative/all levels)

- First letter from the Principal
- Attendance committee and parent(s)/guardian(s) meet to create an action plan

Days Absent : 10-15 (level 1) OR 20 (cumulative/all levels)

- Second letter from the Superintendent
- Continued support for the committee
- Consideration for a court referral

Days Absent : 16 (levels 1&2) OR 30 (cumulative/all levels)

- Communicate with parent(s)/guardian(s) and revise the action plan as needed
- Refer the matter to Municipal Court
- **At 16 Level 1 absences- A referral to the court**
 - Regulation 5200, Section G, 6a

Interesting Facts

- Children that miss 10% (or about 18 days) struggle with learning to read.
- Only 17% of kids who are chronically absent in K and 1st can read on grade level after 3rd grade.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school or leaving school early may lead to poor attendance.

Strategies for Parents

- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick.
- Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

When is Sick Too Sick for School?

Send me to school if...

- I have a runny nose or just a little cough, but no other symptoms.
- I haven't taken any fever reducing medicine for 24 hours, and I haven't had a fever during that time.
- I haven't thrown up or had any diarrhea for 24 hours.