

## ATTENDANCE

The Holmdel Township Board of Education provides a thorough educational program for every pupil in the district. Therefore, the Board believes that it is important that every pupil regularly attend school to have an effective instructional program.

The Board of Education directs that each pupil enrolled shall attend the entire day's program at his/her grade level in order to:

- A. Participate in classroom activities, have contact with other pupils and have the tutelage of a competent teacher;
- B. Minimize disturbance of the classroom routine caused by entering or leaving at nonstandard times;
- C. Avoid needless repetition of subject matter by teachers; and
- D. Benefit from regular continuity of instruction.

Parents/guardians have the responsibility for ensuring that pupils within their custody attend school regularly.

A pupil will be considered to be in attendance in school if he/she is present where any school-sanctioned/sponsored activity is being conducted. Pupils with approval will not be penalized for attending school-sanctioned activities which take place during school hours.

Attendance shall be required of all pupils enrolled in the schools during the days and hours that the school is in session unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the principal that an acceptable cause exists to justify the pupil's absence. In accordance with statute, the Board shall require from the parent/guardian of each child who has been absent from school a written statement of the reason for such absence. The administration reserves the right to verify such statements and to investigate the cause of each absence or tardiness.

Every effort shall be made to identify the habitual truant, investigate and address the cause(s) of his/her behavior, and, with the involvement of his/her parent or guardian, consider modification of his/her educational program to meet his/her particular needs and interests. Prior to any program modification, the student will be referred to the building's Pupil Assistance Committee (PAC) for consideration. Whenever necessary, corrective actions will be instituted.

**ATTENDANCE** (Cont)

File Code: 5110

The Superintendent shall develop procedures to ensure a school session which:

- A. Is in conformity with requirements of the rules of the state board of education;
- B. Governs the keeping of attendance records in accordance with the rules of the state board of education; and
- C. Imposes on truant pupils such disciplinary measures as may be appropriate for infractions of school regulations.

**Source:** Regular Board Meeting

**Date:** August 20, 1986

**Revised:** January 14, 1998

**Legal References:**

<u>N.J.S.A.</u>	18A:36-14, 15	Religious holidays; excused absence
<u>N.J.S.A.</u>	18A:38-25	Attendance
<u>N.J.A.C.</u>	6:8-4.2(d) 2	Attendance requirement for graduation
<u>N.J.A.C.</u>	6:20-1.3(l)	Religious holidays -- excused absence

Wheatley v. Board of Education of City of Burlington, 1974 S.L.D. 851

Wetherell v. Board of Education of the Township of Burlington, 1978 S.L.D. 794

**Cross References:**

5113	Absences and excuses
5115	Attendance records; registers
5144	Discipline/punishment
6146	Graduation requirements/early graduation
6164.2	Pupil assistance committee
6164.4	Child Study Team

