5200 ATTENDANCE

The Board of Education requires that the pupils enrolled in the schools of this district attend school regularly in accordance with the laws of the state. The educational program offered by this district is predicated on the presence of the pupil and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation. The regular contact of pupils with one another in the classroom and their participation in a well-planned instructional activity under the tutelage of a competent teacher are vital to this purpose.

Attendance at school may be excused when the demonstrated mental or physical condition of the pupil is such as to interfere with learning or prevent attendance, or by the observance of the pupil's religion on a day approved by the State Board of Education as a religious holiday, or by such circumstances as the building principal may determine constitute good cause. No pupil, staff member, or visitor may attend or visit school if he or she has an uncoverable and/or uncovered weeping skin lesion, whether or not the person has been screened for HIV. All other absences are unexcused.

Pupils absent from school for any reason are responsible for the completion of assignments missed because of their absence. No student excused for a religious holiday shall be deprived of an award or eligibility to compete for an award or the opportunity to make up a test given on the religious holiday.

Prolonged or repeated absences, excused or unexcused, from school or from class, deprive the pupil of the classroom experience deemed essential to learning and may result in retention at grade level.

When a high school pupil reaches twenty absences for full-year course, he or she shall receive no credit for the course and shall be assigned to a study hall for the remainder of the school year.

Unexcused absences from school or from classes within the school day constitute truancies and shall be subject to the disciplinary rules of the Board. Repeated truancies that interfere with efforts of this Board and its staff in the maintenance of good order and the continuity of classroom instruction may result in the suspension or expulsion of any pupil from the course of study during which absences have occurred or the suspension or expulsion from school of a pupil over sixteen years of age, in accordance with Policy Nos. 5410

and 5420. Before any such action is taken, every effort shall be made to identify the habitual truant, investigate the cause or causes of the pupil's behavior, and consider the modification of the pupil's educational program.

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 is below ninety percent for the district or below eighty-five percent in any one school, the Superintendent shall develop and implement an attendance improvement plan. The attendance rate shall be calculated by dividing total pupil days present for all pupils by the total possible pupil days for all pupils and multiplying the result by one hundred.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14 et seq.;
18A:38-25 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 34:2-21.1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6:20-1.1 et seq.

Adopted: 3 May 2004