

5130 WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL (M)**M**

[See POLICY ALERT No. 95 and 172]

The Board of Education believes that the educational goals of this district are best implemented by a student's exposure to the entire educational program and that every student enrolled in this district should be encouraged to complete the program of instruction appropriate to his/her needs. No student below the age of sixteen will be permitted to withdraw from school.

For districts with elementary school(s)

The Superintendent shall alert teaching staff members to identify those students who may consider eighth grade graduation the termination of their education. Any student who indicates that he/she may drop out of school before entry to the ninth grade should be reported to the Building Principal and be provided with counseling.

For districts with secondary school(s)

The Board directs that efforts be made to determine the underlying reason for a student's decision to withdraw from school before the completion of the instructional program. A potential dropout student will be offered counseling and an opportunity to plan an instructional program appropriate to his/her career goals. No student under the age of eighteen will be permitted to withdraw without the written consent of the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

Counseling services and information regarding high school equivalency programs will be made available to any student sixteen years of age or older who decides to withdraw from school before completion of the requirements for a diploma. A student who has withdrawn from school may apply for readmission at any time prior to his/her twentieth birthday, provided application for readmission is made at the beginning of a school term.

Cross reference: Policy Guide No. 5550

Adopted:

R 5130 WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL (M)**M**

Every student in this district shall be encouraged to complete the program of instruction in which he/she is enrolled, in cooperation with school staff members. Although the enrollment and attendance of persons over the age of sixteen cannot be compelled by law, school personnel shall make every reasonable effort to determine whether the school is meeting the educational needs of a student who requests withdrawal.

A. Request for Permanent Withdrawal

1. The student must obtain a withdrawal form from the **Principal or designee** _____ to be taken home for the signature of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
2. The student must meet with the **Principal or designee** _____ to discuss the reasons for the requested withdrawal.
3. The **Principal or designee and school counselor** _____ will review the student's file to determine whether the student has received the educational services to which he/she is entitled.
4. The student will be offered an exit conference with the **Principal or designee and school counselor** _____, at which the student will be informed of:
 - a. The desirability of continuing education at some future time toward the award of a high school diploma through an Adult High School Program,
 - b. The possibility of readmission until the student is twenty years of age (or, if the student is disabled, until the end of the school year in which his/her twenty-first birthday occurs),
 - c. The possibility of further education in the Armed Forces of the United States and the application of such training toward a high school diploma pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:27-4.1, and
 - d. The continuing availability of high school counseling services.

5. The **Principal or designee** _____ will report the withdrawal and the reasons for the withdrawal to the Superintendent to satisfy State reporting requirements.

B. Transferring Students

1. A student requesting transfer to another school, public or private, must obtain from the **school counseling office** _____ a transfer form for approval by the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
2. A parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who withdraws a student from this district shall be asked to designate the name and location of the school or school district in which he/she intends to enroll the student. The Principal shall be alert to the receipt of a request for records from that school district, for the purpose of implementing Policy No. 8462.

C. Student's Responsibilities

A student who withdraws, permanently or by transfer, must:

1. Return all books, uniforms, and other school property to the appropriate school staff member, who shall give a proper receipt for returned items;
2. Clear out his/her locker(s) and turn in any locks owned by the district;
3. Clear any obligations, for materials or fines, to the school library;
4. Pay any fines due for damaged or lost textbooks; and
5. Submit a properly authorized withdrawal or transfer form.

D. Records

1. The records of a student who transfers to another school will be sent to that school in accordance with Regulation No. 8330.
2. The permanent records of a student who withdraws from school will be retained in accordance with Regulation No. 8330.

REGULATION GUIDE

STRAUSS ESMAY ASSOCIATES

STUDENTS

R 5130 WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL (M)

Issued:

5200 ATTENDANCE (M)

[See **POLICY MEMO No. 17**]

[See **POLICY ALERT Nos. 95, 96, 139, 172, 176, 203 and 205**]

M

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25, every parent, guardian, 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.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6 and for the purposes of this Policy and Regulation 5200, a student's absence from school will be excused or unexcused that counts toward truancy.

Students that are absent from school for any reason are responsible for the completion of assignments missed because of their absence. 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

For districts with secondary school(s)

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 this 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

POLICY GUIDE

STRAUSS ESMAY ASSOCIATES

STUDENTS

5200 ATTENDANCE (M)

Department of Education requires 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:38-25

N.J.S.A. 34:2-21.1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6; 6A:32-8.3

Adopted:

R 5200 ATTENDANCE (M)

[See **POLICY MEMO. No. 17**]

[See **POLICY ALERT Nos. 95, 96, 139, 176, 203 and 205**]

M**A. Definitions**

1. For the purposes of school attendance, a “day in session” shall be a day on which the school is open and students are under the guidance and direction of a teacher or teachers engaged in the teaching process. Days on which school is closed for such reasons as holidays, teachers’ institutes, and inclement weather shall not be considered as days in session.
2. A “school day” shall consist of not less than four hours, except that one continuous session of two and one-half hours may be considered a full day of Kindergarten.
3. “A day of attendance” shall be one in which the student is present for a full day under the guidance and direction of a teacher while school is in session.
 - a. Whenever over-crowded conditions make it necessary to hold two separate sessions with a different group of students in each session, a student attending for all of either session shall be regarded as having attended for the full day. An excused absence for any reason shall not be counted as a day of attendance in the school register.
4. A “half-day class” shall be considered the equivalent of a full day’s attendance only if in session for four hours or more, exclusive of recess periods or lunch periods.

B. Attendance Recording

1. A record of the attendance of all students on roll in a school register shall be kept each day that school is in session by a teacher or other authorized person. It shall be the duty of this person to keep the attendance records according to these rules and the specific instructions issued by the Commissioner of Education.
2. No student shall be recorded as present unless the school is in session and the student so recorded is under the guidance and direction of a teacher in the teaching process.

- 3. A student shall be recorded as absent in the school register when not in attendance at a session of the school while a member of the school, except students excused due to religious holidays who shall be recorded as excused.
- 4. A student shall be recorded as either present, absent, or excused for religious observance, every day the school is in session after the student enters until the date the student is transferred to another school, transferred to an individual home instruction record, or officially leaves the school system.
- 5. The Commissioner shall annually prescribe a list of religious holidays on which it shall be mandatory to excuse students for religious observance upon the written request signed by the parent or person standing in loco parentis.
- 6. The mere presence of a student at roll call shall not be regarded as sufficient attendance for compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3. In a school which is in session during both the forenoon and the afternoon, a student shall be present at least one hour during both the forenoon and the afternoon in order to be recorded as present for the full day. In a school which is in session during either the forenoon or the afternoon, a student shall be present at least two hours in the session in order to be recorded as present for the full day.
- 7. A student not present in school because of his/her participation in an approved school activity, such as a field trip, meeting, cooperative education assignment, or athletic competition will be considered to be in attendance.

C. Unexcused Absences That Count Toward Truancy/Excused Absences

- 1. “An unexcused absence that counts toward truancy” is a student’s absence from school for a full or a portion of a day for any reason that is not an “excused absence” as defined below.
- 2. “An excused absence” is a student’s absence from school for a full day or a portion of a day for the observance of a religious holiday pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14 through 16, or any absence for the reasons listed below:

[Select one or more options below

- The student’s illness
 - supported by a written letter from the parent upon student’s return to school;
 - supported by notification to the school by the student’s parent;

- ___ The student’s required attendance in court;

- ___ Where appropriate, when consistent with Individualized Education Programs, the Individuals with Disabilities Act, accommodation plans under 29 U.S.C. §§ 794 and 705(20), and individualized health care plans;

- ___ The student’s suspension from school;

- ___ Family illness or death
 - ___ supported by a written letter from the parent upon the student’s return to school;
 - ___ supported by notification to the school by the student’s parent;

- ___ Visits to post-secondary educational institutions;

- ___ Interviews with a prospective employer or with an admissions officer of an institution of higher education;

- ___ Examination for a driver's license;

- ___ Necessary and unavoidable medical or dental appointments that cannot be scheduled at a time other than the school day;

- ___ Take Our Children to Work Day;

- ___ An absence considered excused by a New Jersey Department of Education rule;

- ___ An absence for a reason not listed above, but deemed excused by the Principal upon a written request by the student’s parent stating the reason for the absence and requesting permission for the absence to be an excused absence;

- ___ _____
_____;

- ___ _____
_____.]

3. “Truancy” means ten or more cumulative unexcused absences that count toward truancy of a student between the ages of six and sixteen as determined by the Board’s Attendance Policy and Regulation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6(a)4.iii. and the definition of school day pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3. Any absence not listed in C.2. above shall be an unexcused absence counted toward truancy.
4. “Unexcused tardiness” may constitute an unexcused absence that counts toward truancy in accordance with Policy 5240.

D. Notice to School of a Student’s Absence

1. The parent or adult student is requested to contact the school office before the start of the student’s school day.
2. The parent of the student or an adult student who will attend the morning session, but will not attend the afternoon session should call or provide notice to the school office before the start of the afternoon session.
3. The parent or adult student who anticipates a future absence or anticipates that an absence will be prolonged should notify the school office.

E. Readmission to School After an Absence

1. A student returning from an absence of any length of time must provide a written statement that is dated and signed by the parent or adult student listing the reason for the absence.
2. A note explaining a student’s absence for a noncommunicable illness for a period of more than 2 _____ school days must be accompanied by a physician's statement of the student’s illness with medical clearance to return to school.
3. A student who has been absent by reason of having or being suspected of having a communicable disease must present to the school nurse written evidence of being free of communicable disease, in accordance with Policy 8451.

F. Instruction

1. Teachers shall cooperate in the preparation of home assignments for students who anticipate an excused absence of 3 _____ school days duration. The parent or student must request such home assignments.

2. A student who anticipates an absence due to a temporary or chronic health condition may be eligible for home instruction in accordance with Policy 2412. The parent must request home instruction.
3. Students absent for any reason are expected to make up the work missed. The parent or student is responsible for requesting missed assignments and any assistance required. Teachers will provide make-up assignments as necessary.
4. In general, students will be allowed a reasonable amount of time as determined by the teacher to make up missed work.
5. A student who missed a test or an exam shall be offered an opportunity to take the test, exam, or an appropriate alternate test.

G. Denial of Course Credit

1. The teacher will determine the credit to be awarded a student for make-up work. Where class participation is a factor in the learning process, the teacher may consider a student's absence in determining a final grade, except absences for the observance of a religious holiday or absence for a student's suspension from school will not adversely affect the student's grade. The teacher may record an incomplete grade for a student who has not had a full opportunity to make up missed work.
2. A secondary student may be dropped from a course or denied course credit when he/she has been absent from **16** _____ (number, fraction, or percentage) or more of the class sessions, whatever the reason for the absence, except that absences for the observance of a religious holiday or absences caused by a student's suspension will not count toward the total.

[Options

___ Exceptions to this rule may be made for students who have demonstrated to the teacher through completion of make-up assignments that they have mastered the proficiencies established for the course of study.

___ A secondary student who has been dropped from a course of study may be assigned to an alternate program (academic study hall.)

___ A secondary student denied course credit after completing the course will be permitted to attend a credit completion session to regain the denied credit, provided that the student has not exceeded the absences allotted by the attendance action plan.]

- H. School District Response To Unexcused Absences During the School Year That Count Toward Truancy
1. For up to four cumulative unexcused absences that count toward truancy, the Principal or designee shall:
 - a. Make a reasonable attempt to notify the student's parent of each unexcused absence prior to the start of the following school day;
 - b. Make a reasonable attempt to determine the cause of the unexcused absence, including through contact with the student's parent;
 - c. Identify, in consultation with the student's parents, needed action designed to address patterns of unexcused absences, if any, and to have the child return to school and maintain regular attendance;
 - d. Proceed in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 9:6-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10, if a potentially missing or abused child situation is detected; and
 - e. Cooperate with law enforcement and other authorities and agencies, as appropriate.
 2. For between five and nine cumulative unexcused absences that count toward truancy, the Principal or designee shall:
 - a. Make a reasonable attempt to notify the student's parent of each unexcused absence prior to the start of the following school day;
 - b. Make a reasonable attempt to determine the cause of the unexcused absence, including through contact with the student's parent;
 - c. Evaluate the appropriateness of action taken pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6(a)4.i.(3) and H.1.c. above;
 - d. Develop an action plan to establish outcomes based upon the student's patterns of unexcused absences and to specify the interventions for supporting the student's return to school and regular attendance, which may include any or all of the following:

- (1) Refer or consult with the building's Intervention and Referral Services Team, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8;
 - (2) Conduct testing, assessments, or evaluations of the student's academic, behavioral, and health needs;
 - (3) Consider an alternate educational placement;
 - (4) Make a referral to or coordinate with a community-based social and health provider agency or other community resource;
 - (5) Refer to a court or court program pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6(a)4.iv. and H.4. below;
 - (6) Proceed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 9:6-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10, if a potential missing or abused child situation is detected; and
 - (7) Engage the student's family.
- e. Cooperate with law enforcement and other authorities and agencies, as appropriate.
3. For ten or more cumulative unexcused absences that count toward truancy, a student between the ages of six and sixteen is truant, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25, and the Principal or designee shall:
- a. Make a determination regarding the need for a court referral for the truancy, per N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6(a)4.iv. and H.4. below;
 - b. Continue to consult with the parent and the involved agencies to support the student's return to school and regular attendance;
 - c. Cooperate with law enforcement and other authorities and agencies, as appropriate; and
 - d. Proceed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-28 through 31, Article 3B, Compelling Attendance at School, and other applicable State and Federal statutes, as required.
4. A court referral may be made as follows:

- a. When unexcused absences that count toward truancy are determined by school officials to be violations of the compulsory education law, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25, and the Board of Education's policies, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6(a), the parent may be referred to Municipal Court.
 - (1) A written report of the actions the school has taken regarding the student's attendance shall be forwarded to the Municipal Court; or
- b. When there is evidence of a juvenile-family crisis, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:4A-22.g, the student may be referred to Superior Court, Chancery Division, Family Part.
 - (1) A written report of the actions the school has taken regarding the student's attendance shall be forwarded to the Juvenile-Family Crisis Intervention Unit.
5. For a student with a disability, the attendance plan and its punitive and remedial procedures shall be applied, where applicable, in accordance with the student's IEP, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 et seq., the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; the procedural protections set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:14; accommodation plan under 29 U.S.C. §§794 and 705(20); and individualized health care plan and individualized emergency healthcare plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.3(b)5.xii.
6. All receiving schools pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-7.1(a), shall act in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6(a)4.i. and H.1. above for each student with up to four cumulative unexcused absences that count toward truancy.
 - a. For each student attending a receiving school with five or more cumulative unexcused absences that count toward truancy, the absences shall be reported to the sending school district.
 - (1) The sending school district shall proceed in accordance with the Board of Education's policies and procedures pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6(a) and H.5. above and the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6(a)4.ii. through iv. and H.2. through H.5. above, as appropriate.

I. Discipline

1. Students may be denied participation in co-curricular activities if the Board establishes attendance standards for participation.

2. Students may be denied participation in athletic competition if the Board establishes attendance standards for participation.
3. No student who is absent from school for observance of a religious holiday may be deprived of any award or of eligibility for or opportunity to compete for any award because of the absence.

J. Recording Attendance

1. Teachers must accurately record the students present, tardy, or absent each day in each session or each class. Attendance records must also record students' attendance at out-of-school curricular events such as field trips.
2. A record shall be maintained of each excused absence and each unexcused absence that counts toward truancy as defined in Policy and Regulation 5200.
3. A report card will record the number of times the student was absent and tardy in each marking period.
4. A student's absence for observance of a religious holiday will not be recorded as such on any transcript or application or employment form.

K. Appeal

1. Students may be subject to appropriate discipline for their school attendance record.
2. A student who has been retained at grade level for excessive absences may appeal that action in accordance with Policy 5410.
3. A student who has been dropped from a course and/or denied course credit for excessive absences may appeal that action in accordance with the following procedures:
 - a. The student shall file a written appeal to the Principal or designee within five school days of receiving notice of the action. The appeal should state the reasons for each absence, any documentation that may support reducing the number of absences for the purposes of course credit, and reasons why the student should either continue to be enrolled in the course or receive course credit for a class the student completed.
 - b. The Principal or designee will respond in writing no later than seven school days after receiving the student's appeal.

- c. If the student is not satisfied, he/she may submit a written request to the Principal for consideration by an Attendance Review Committee.
- d. On a student's request for consideration by an Attendance Review Committee, the Principal shall convene an Attendance Review Committee. The Attendance Review Committee shall meet informally to hear the student's appeal. The student's parent and teacher(s) may attend the meeting.
- e. The Attendance Review Committee shall decide the appeal and inform the student in writing within seven school days of the meeting.
- f. The student may appeal an adverse decision of the Attendance Review Committee to the Superintendent, the Board of Education, and the Commissioner of Education in accordance with Policy 5710, Student Grievance and N.J.S.A. 18A. An appeal to the Attendance Review Committee shall be considered to have exhausted the first two steps of the grievance procedure outlined in Policy 5710.

L. Attendance Records

- 1. Attendance records for the school district and each school will be maintained and attendance rates will be calculated as required by the New Jersey Department of Education. The school district will comply with all attendance requirements and any improvement plans as required by the Department of Education.

Adopted:

5230 LATE ARRIVAL AND EARLY DISMISSAL

[See **POLICY ALERT Nos. 114 and 172**]

The Board of Education requires that students be in attendance for the full school day in order to benefit from the instructional program. That requirement will be waived only when compelling circumstances require that a student be late to school or dismissed from school before the end of the school day.

The Principal may excuse for cause the late arrival and early dismissal of a student on the prior written request of the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s). Good cause may include, but need not be limited to, medical and dental appointments that cannot be scheduled outside the school day, medical disability, a motor vehicle driver's test, interviews for college entrance or employment, and court appearances.

No student under the age of 18 _____ will be permitted to leave the school before the end of the school day except in the presence of the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s), or an agent of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who has written authorization, or in the custody of agents of the State acting in their legal capacity.

The Principal shall maintain a record of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of each student. If one parent has been assigned custody of the student by court order or separation agreement and wishes to limit the noncustodial parent's access to the student, the parent in custody must inform the Principal of any such limitation and may request that his/her authorization be required before the noncustodial parent is granted access. In the absence of such notice, the Principal will presume that a student may be released into the care of either parent.

A student who suffers an incapacitating medical disability will be released from school only in the presence of an adult.

Cross reference: Policy Guide No. 9240

Adopted:

POLICY GUIDE

STRAUSS ESMAY ASSOCIATES

STUDENTS

5230 LATE ARRIVAL AND EARLY DISMISSAL

R 5230 LATE ARRIVAL AND EARLY DISMISSAL

A. Definitions

1. “Late arrival” means the arrival of a student after the beginning of the student’s school day for an excused purpose. A late arrival is not an instance of tardiness for the purpose of applying Regulation No. 5240.
2. “Early dismissal” means the release of a student from school prior to the end of the student’s school day for an excused purpose; "early dismissal" includes the release of a student for a period of time that occurs during the student’s school day. An early dismissal is not an absence for the purpose of applying Regulation No. 5200.
3. “Dismissal from class” means a student’s brief absence from his/her assigned class for a reason that has been approved in advance. A "dismissal from class" is not a class "cut" for the purpose of applying Regulation No. 5200.

B. Acceptable Excuses -

The following circumstances justify a student’s late arrival. The list is not meant to be exhaustive, and the Principal or designee should use his/her best judgment in determining whether or not there is good cause for the student’s late arrival.

1. The student’s disability from illness or injury, including any necessary emergency visits to a physician or dentist;
2. A bona fide family emergency;
3. The observance of a religious holiday;
4. Religious instruction;
6. Medical or dental appointment that cannot be scheduled at a time other than during the school day;
7. Motor vehicle driver’s examination that cannot be scheduled at a time other than during the school day;

8. The student's required attendance in court;
9. Private lessons in music, art, or dance or private practice sessions in preparation for competitive events, such as in figure skating or gymnastics; and
10. An interview with a prospective employer or with an admissions officer of an institution of higher education.

C. Late Arrival

1. A student's late arrival in school should be approved by the **attendance office** _____ in advance. ~~A late arrival that is not approved at least _____ (hours or days) in advance will be considered to be an instance of tardiness.~~
2. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or adult student shall submit a written request for approval of a late arrival to the _____. The request must include the reason for the student's late arrival and a statement of why it is necessary to delay the student's arrival at school.
3. A student who arrives late at school shall report to the **attendance office** _____ office and pick up a late arrival permission slip, signed by the **attendance office staff**. _____ (**officer designated by C1 to approve late arrival requests**). The permission slip will include the date and the time of the student's arrival. The student will proceed to his/her assigned class and present the permission slip to the teaching staff member in charge, who will verify the date and time.

D. Early Dismissal Generally

1. A student's early dismissal must be approved by the **attendance office** _____ in advance. Except for emergencies, an early dismissal that is not approved in advance will be considered to be an absence.
2. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or adult student shall submit a written request for approval of an early dismissal to the **attendance office** _____. The request must include the reason for the student's early dismissal and a statement of why it is necessary to excuse the student before the end of the student's school day.

3. A student must obtain an approved early dismissal permission slip from the **attendance office** _____ and present the slip to the teaching staff member in charge of the class or activity from which the student is to be dismissed. The permission slip will include the date and time of approved dismissal. The teaching staff member in charge must verify the date and time.

E. Early Dismissal for Illness or Injury

1. A student who suffers a significant illness or injury during the course of the school day will be treated in accordance with Policy and Regulation No. 8441.
2. A student who suffers a minor illness or injury will be sent to the school nurse. A student in grades **PK** through **3** who is sent to the school nurse must be accompanied by an adult or responsible student. If the nurse's office is unattended, the student should report to the Principal's office.
3. If the school nurse determines that an elementary student should be sent home, the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or the responsible adult designated by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) will be telephoned to pick up the student.
4. No student under the age of **18** _____ (**see Policy No. 5230 for cut-off date**) shall be released from school before the end of the school day except in the presence of the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or an agent of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

F. Early Dismissal for Family Emergency

1. A student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s), or caretaker may request the student's early release for a bona fide family emergency. Early dismissal for family emergency must be approved by the **principal, through a district approved form.**
_____.
2. A student will be released to a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who reports to the school office and explains satisfactorily to the Principal that good and sufficient reason justifies the student's release from school before the end of the student's school day.

3. A student will be released to an agent of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) provided the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), or a caretaker personally known to the Principal has requested the student's release by:
 - a. Written request signed by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), or caretaker and verified by telephone call to the signer, or
 - b. A telephone call that is verified by a return telephone call to the student's residence or, if the call does not originate in the student's home, by interrogation of the caller to test his/her knowledge of specific facts about the student.
4. The Principal shall verify the identity of the agent to whom the student is released by examination of documents or by verification of characteristics supplied by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), or caretaker.
5. If the Principal believes that a genuine emergency may exist but cannot verify the identity of the person who requests release of the student, the Principal shall arrange for the student's transportation by a school staff member directly to the custody of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), or designated agent of the parent or legal guardian.
6. The Principal shall maintain a record of each student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The record shall include any legally sufficient notice given the Principal by a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) in sole custody that the noncustodial parent's access to the student has been limited. In the absence of such notice, the Principal shall presume that the student may be released into the care of either parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

Issued:

5240 TARDINESS

[See **POLICY ALERT Nos. 114 and 172**]

The Board of Education believes that promptness is an important element of school attendance. Students who are late to school or to class miss essential portions of the instructional program and create disruptions in the academic process for themselves and other students.

Tardiness to school or class that is caused by a student's illness, an emergency in the student's family, the observance of a religious holiday, a death in the student's family, or by the student's compliance with a request or directive of an administrator will be considered justified and is excused. All other incidents of tardiness will be considered unexcused.

4 _____ (**insert number**) instances of unexcused tardiness will equal one unexcused absence for the purpose of calculating unexcused absences for application of Board Policy No. 5410 on promotion

For districts with secondary school(s)

and Policy No. 5460 on high school graduation.

A student who develops a pattern of tardiness, excused or unexcused, will be offered counseling with an appropriate staff member to determine the cause of the tardiness.

Chronic tardiness may result in open lunch privileges being revoked.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14; 18A:36-15; 18A:36-25 et seq.

Adopted:

R 5240 TARDINESS

A. Definitions

1. A student is tardy to school when the student reports to his/her assigned class

(Choose only one of the following alternatives:)

___ after the beginning of the school day

___ more than _____ minutes after the beginning of the school day

___ after the late bell rings

without approval for the delay.

2. A student is tardy to class when the student reports to his/her assigned classroom or other place of instruction

(Choose only one of the following alternatives:)

___ after the beginning of the school day

___ more than _____ minutes after the beginning of the school day

___ after the late bell rings

without approval for the delay.

3. A student who is late to school or class for an excused purpose pursuant to Policy No. 5230 is not tardy for the purpose of this regulation.

B. Procedures for Tardy Arrivals

1. A student who is tardy to school must report to the **attendance/main** _____ office to present a written note explaining the reason for the tardiness. The student must sign in and receive a late pass for admission to class.

2. A student who is tardy to class may be sent by the teacher to the **attendance/main** _____ office to explain the reason for the tardiness and obtain a late pass for admission to class.
3. No student who arrives at school after attendance has been taken will be admitted to class without a late pass.

C. Discipline

1. A student who has been tardy to school or class **2** _____ times may be assigned to detention. An additional detention will be assigned for each instance of tardiness thereafter.
2. A student who has been tardy from school or class **4** _____ times in any **year** _____ (month, marking period, semester, year other) will be reported to the **building principal or designee** _____ for counseling. The student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) will be notified and will be requested to attend a conference with the school counselor _____.
3. A student who has been tardy to school **4** _____ times in any one _____ year (month, marking period, semester, year other) will be counted as absent from school one day for purposes of applying Regulation No. 5200.
4. A student who has been tardy to class **4** _____ times in any one _____ year (month, marking period, semester, year other) will be counted as absent from that class one day for purposes of applying Regulation No. 5200.

Issued:

5250 EXCUSAL FROM CLASS OR PROGRAM

The Board of Education directs that a student be excused from any part of the instructions in health education, family life education, sex education, or instruction that includes dissection of animals that the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the student or the adult student finds morally, conscientiously, or religiously offensive. A request for excusal must be presented in a signed statement and submitted to the Principal or designee. _____.

An excused student shall be assigned to an alternate program of independent study on a substitute topic within the health education, family life education, or sex education program. The parent's or legal guardian's right of excusal applies to any alternate program as well.

No excused student will be penalized by loss of credit as a result of his/her excusal, but a student will be held accountable for successful completion of any alternate program assigned.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.7

Cross reference: Policy Guide Nos. 2422, 5530

Adopted: