

NORTH PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT ATTENDANCE POLICY	Approved: 8/25/2010

Purpose:

The purpose of the North Providence School District Attendance Policy is to ensure our students are successful. Studies show that attendance is directly related to a students’ success in school. Rhode Island state law (16-19) mandates all students who have not reached their eighteenth birthday to attend school regularly. After that date, students are in school on a voluntary basis and submit to the state mandate as a condition of enrollment. Regular attendance at school results in a sense of responsibility, which is necessary for success in the workplace.

1. Daily attendance for all students in the district is mandatory.
2. Parents/guardians are required to provide a written or verbal reason to the school administrator for each period of absence, early dismissals or late arrival.
3. It is suggested that parents/guardians make every effort to refrain from scheduling personal appointments during the school day.
4. Repeated unexcused absences from school will result in a parent/guardian conference and detention may be assigned consistent with the amount of time lost from school. Continued unexcused absences from school will result in a referral to the Truancy Officer. Resources at the school level (nurses, social workers, counselors, truancy officer) may be utilized, if necessary, for truancy issues.
5. Repeated tardiness to school impacts student learning and leads to lost instructional time. Punctuality must be maintained during the school year.
6. Repeated lateness may result in student discipline in accordance with the Student Handbook.

7. Students must be in their assigned rooms at a time specified by the principal. When students enter school grounds, all school regulations pertain. Students are to report to their assigned location as soon as it is opened.

8. The North Providence School Department may initiate waywardness proceedings in the Rhode Island Family Court based upon a student's truancy.
 - a. Before initiating any such proceeding, school personnel shall undertake all reasonable, educationally sound, corrective actions to address the student's attendance issues, and document in writing the actions taken.
 - b. No such proceeding shall be initiated against a student who does not have at least ten (10) unexcused absences during the school year.
 - c. Absences resulting from illness, a diagnosed chronic medical condition, diagnosed mental health issues, a legitimate fear of being bullied that has arisen following the submission of a written or formal complaint reported or filed with the police and/or school officials and until the merits of the complaint have been determined by the police or school officials, an in or out-of-school suspension, or a documented family emergency (e.g., unanticipated and emergency childcare needs, funeral, illness of parent, etc.) shall not be considered unexcused. Illness should be documented by a medical professional (not a parent/guardian).
 - d. Students shall not be required to provide a note from a physician or other health care professional for absences resulting from illness unless the student has been absent for more than five (5) consecutive school days as a result of the illness. However, if a student is absent for less than 5 days and provides a doctor's note, the absences will be excused.

9. Grades may be impacted as a result of missed class work, projects, quizzes and tests during any unexcused absences. All missed work must be made up in a timely manner.

Appeals Process for Excessive Absence

Loss of credit due to excessive absence from school may be appealed to the building principal in writing. A parent/guardian may appeal the decision to the superintendent's office in writing. If the parent/guardian is still dissatisfied at that level, the final appeal may be addressed to the North Providence School Committee in writing