

# Alloway Township Board of Education District Policy Manual

**Students**

**Series 5000**

**Student Attendance**

**Policy 5110**

**Date Adopted: October 22, 2002**

**Date Revised**

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Compulsory attendance at school is a long-standing state policy and has been upheld by the court of New Jersey and the U.S. Supreme Court as a matter of public concern and legislative regulation.

The Board of Education has an obligation to require that the pupils of this district be present in school in order that they may be taught. This policy is for the benefit of the pupils, their parents, and the community at large. The Board concurs with the Commissioner of Education who wrote:

“...pupil participation in all regularly scheduled classroom learning activities in each area of study is essential in order for each pupil to receive the maximum benefits of a thorough educational program. Frequent absences of pupils from regular classroom learning experiences disrupt the continuity of the instructional process. The benefit of regular classroom instruction is lost and cannot be entirely regained, even by extra after-school instruction. Consequently, many pupils who miss school frequently experience great difficulty in achieving the maximum benefits of schooling. Indeed, many pupils in these circumstances are able to achieve only mediocre success in their academic programs. The school cannot teach pupils who are not present. The entire process of education requires a regular continuity of instruction, classroom participation, learning experiences, and study in order to reach the goal of maximum educational benefits for each individual child. The regular contact of the pupils with one another in the classroom and their participation in well-planned instructional activity under the tutelage of a competent teacher are vital to this purpose. This is a well-established principle of education which underlies and gives purpose to the requirement of compulsory schooling in this and every other state in the nation.”<sup>1</sup>

The length of the academic year is generally 180-182 days for pupils. The curriculum is designed to achieve maximum educational affect within the limited number of school day. Therefore, any absence from school jeopardizes the ability of a pupil to satisfactorily complete the prescribed condition upon which all courses of study are predicted.

<sup>1</sup> Wheatley et al V. Board of Education of the City of Burlington, Burlington County, September 23 ,1974.

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The Board, in the interest of the educational welfare of its pupils and the integrity of its program, will not grant credit for course when a pupil has not complied with the attendance regulations. The Board deems a lack of attendance as a violation of the long-standing state policy for compulsory and maximum attendance.

The Board further maintains that the learner has major responsibility to learn, and as such, the pupil is accountable for the faithful school attendance.

The Board cannot condone, excuse, or encourage any absence by pupils. Therefore, the Superintendent/designee shall prepare regulations to insure that the intent of this policy is implemented.

## Legal References

- NJSA 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties  
18A:35-4.9 Pupil promotion and remediation; policies and procedures  
18A:36-14, -15, -16 Religious holidays; absence of pupils on; effect ...  
18A:36-19a Newly enrolled students; records and identification  
18A:36-24 through -26 Missing children; legislative findings and declarations ...  
18A:38-25 Attendance required of children between six and 16; exceptions  
18A:38-26 Days when attendance required; exceptions  
18A:38-27 Truancy and juvenile delinquency defined  
18A:38-31 Violations of article by parents or guardians; penalties  
18A:38-32 District and county vocational school attendance officers  
18A:40-7 Exclusion of pupils who are ill  
18A:40-8 Exclusion of pupils whose presence is detrimental to health  
18A:40-9 Failure of parent to remove cause for exclusion; penalty  
18A:40-10 Exclusion of teachers and pupils exposed to disease  
18A:40-11 Exclusion of pupils having communicable tuberculosis  
18A:40-12 Closing schools during epidemic  
18A:54-20 Powers of board (county vocational schools)  
52:17B-9.8a through -9.8c Marking of missing child's school record
- NJAC 6A:8-5.1 Graduation requirements  
6A:16-1 et seq. Programs to support student development.  
6A:30-1.1 et seq. Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts  
6A:32-8.1 et seq. Student Attendance and Accounting  
6A:32-8.3 Student attendance  
Wetherell v. Board of Education of Township of Burlington, 1978 S.L.D. 794  
Wheatley v. Board of Education of City of Burlington, 1974 S.L.D. 851

## Possible Cross References

5020, 5111, 5114, 5115, 5124, 5141.2, 5141.4, 5142, 6146, 6147, 6147.1, 6154, 6171.4, 6173