

Denville Public Schools  
Attendance Policy & Regulation 5200 Guidance  
5/5/2023

Attendance

- A day of attendance is a minimum of four 4 hours.
- A student shall be recorded as either present, absent, or excused for religious observance.
- 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.

Unexcused Absences:

- **Tuancy** is defined as ten (10) or more cumulative, unexcused absences accrued by a student.
- 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.
- Absences due to vacation or travel are not excused.

Excused Absences:

When a parent or guardian provides <b>written or verbal notice</b> of the absence of the following...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ event of illness</li><li>○ observance of a religious holiday</li><li>○ court appearance</li><li>○ death in the family</li><li>○ unavoidable doctor or dentist appointment</li><li>○ participation in Take Our Children to Work Day</li><li>○ absence caused by IEP or 504 accommodation</li><li>○ and/or additional reason(s) deemed excused by the Principal.</li></ul>

Why does this matter?

In accordance with **Tabitha's Law**, it is the responsibility of parents/guardians to inform the school of a child's absence or early pick-up prior to the start of the school day. Notify the school principal if you anticipate a future absence or anticipate that an absence will be prolonged.

A doctor's note is not needed in order for a student to return to school following an illness, **unless** the duration of the absence exceeds five (5) school days and / or the student had contracted a communicable disease (see Policy 8451).

Additional days absent for illness can be approved with a doctor's note indicating date of visit, along with necessary duration of absence. Provided that all necessary documentation has been submitted, the principal has the authority to excuse an absence.

**For detailed information about attendance refer to [Policy 5200](#) and [Regulation 5200](#).**