

STUDENT ATTENDANCE/TRUANCY/TARDINESS

Parents/Guardians are responsible for seeing to it that their child attends school regularly and arrive on time.

1. Students must be in homeroom by 8:10 AM
2. Students arriving to homeroom after 8:10 AM will be marked tardy. Students are to sign in at the main entrance upon arrival to receive a pass to class.
3. Disciplinary action will be taken by the administration in regard to tardiness (parent/guardian conference, lunch detention, after-school detention, full-day detention).

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25, every child between the ages of six and sixteen shall regularly attend school. 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 whether excused or unexcused may count toward truancy. As recommended by the New Jersey State Department of Education, a student who exceeds more than 10 percent of a school year in absences will be deemed *chronically absent*.

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

Chronic 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.

A student will be considered to have attended school if he/she has been present at least 4 hours during the school day.

Excused Absences

In alignment with the New Jersey Department of Education, the Vernon Township School District does not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences, with the exception of school mandated suspensions, religious holidays, and "Take Your Child to Work Day."

Notice to School of a Student's Absence

Should absence be necessary due to illness, emergency, funeral, or religious practice, parents/guardians are required to call the school (973) 764-2860 before the start of the student's school day.

Returning from an Absence

A student returning from an absence of any length of time must provide a **written statement that is dated and signed by the parent/guardian listing the reasons for the absence**.

A note explaining a student's absence for a non-communicable illness for a period of **more than 3 school days must be accompanied by a physician's statement of the student's illness with medical clearance to return to school**.

Instruction

Students absent for any reason are expected to make up the work missed. The parent/guardian or student is responsible for requesting missed assignments.

Truancy

Students shall be subjected to the school district's response for total accumulated 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. 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/guardian may be referred to Municipal Court.

For complete information please refer to BOE Policy/Regulation 5200 and 5240