

Notwithstanding the above, how “excused” and “unexcused” absences are defined for purposes of expectations and consequences regarding truancy, student conduct, promotion, retention, and the award of course credit is a local decision. *N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6(a)* requires each district board of education to “develop, adopt, and implement policies and procedures regarding the attendance of students,” and these policies and procedures must contain, at a minimum, “[a] definition of unexcused absence that count towards truancy....” See *N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6(a)(3)*.

Accordingly, how a school district defines an “excused” or “unexcused” absence for purposes of truancy, student conduct, promotion, retention, and the award of course credit is a local decision, and school districts can take any and all action authorized by their policies and procedures when categorizing these absences.

DC/SM/gm

- c: Members, State Board of Education
- David C. Hespe, Acting Commissioner
- Senior Staff
- Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
- Executive County Superintendents
- Executive County Business Officials
- NJ LEE Group
- Garden State Coalition of Schools