

HACKENSACK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

As per the state Division of Early Childhood Education, regular school attendance is an important factor in children's social and cognitive development. Regular school attendance can provide children with various enriching opportunities and experiences that are beneficial to their social development and relationships with peers and adults. Excessive absenteeism whether sporadic or consistent can have long-term effects on a child's educational path starting in the preschool. Chronic absenteeism sets the stage for poor attendance and inability to successfully do grade-level work in later grades (*Attendance Works, 2013*: <http://www.attendanceworks.org/policy/state-education-policy/new-jersey/>). In light of this, we want you to be aware of the following policies and procedures that the district will follow if your child is absent from school. These guidelines follow New Jersey State Requirements (18A: 38).

1. When a child has reached four (4) unexcused absences that count toward truancy, the school principal, assistant principal, or school administrator will contact the parent(s) or guardian(s) and determine a plan to address/avoid the absences.
2. When a child has reached between five (5) and nine (9) unexcused absences that count toward truancy, the school will develop an action plan that may include consulting the school nurse, a community agency, and law enforcement or other authorities and agencies.
3. When a child has reached ten (10) or more absences, the school will determine whether there is a need to refer the matter to a court for truancy.

Please note: For Preschool Students, excessive absences may result in dismissal from the program.

All of the measures above are done to make sure that all Hackensack children receive a thorough and efficient education. For your information, we have included the district policy in your packets. Please know that these policies also apply to all Preschool and Kindergarten students.

Please sign and return this to your child's teacher during the first week of school in September.

Student's Name _____ Teacher _____

I have read and understand the Hackensack Public Schools Attendance Policy as it relates to my child.

Parent's/Guardian's Name _____

Parent's/Guardian's Signature _____

Date ____/____/____