



POLICY

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

**Haddonfield
Board of Education**

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Attendance

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The regular and prompt attendance of teaching staff members is an essential element in the efficient operation of the school district and the effective conduct of the educational program. Teaching staff member absenteeism disrupts the educational program and the Board of Education considers attendance an important component of a teaching staff member's job performance.

Teaching staff members shall provide notice for the use of sick time as required in N.J.S.A. 18A:30-4 and Policy and Regulation 1642.01 in accordance with the district's procedure for teaching staff members to report the use of sick leave and other absences. A teaching staff member who fails to give prompt notice of an absence, misuses sick leave, fails to verify an absence in accordance with statute, administrative code, or Board policy, falsifies the reason for an absence, is absent without authorization, is repeatedly tardy, or accumulates an excessive number of absences may be subject to appropriate consequences, which may include but not be limited to, the withholding of salary increments, termination nonrenewal and/or certification of tenure charges.

Sick leave is defined in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:30-1 and Policy and Regulation 1642.01. No teaching staff member will be discouraged from the prudent, necessary use of sick leave and any other leave provided for by statute; administrative code; collective bargaining agreement; an individual employment contract; or the policies of the Board. The Superintendent or Board of Education may require a physician's certificate to be filed with the Secretary of the Board in order to obtain sick leave in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:30-4 and Policy and Regulation 1642.01.

The Superintendent, in consultation with administrative staff members, will review the rate of absence among teaching staff members. The review will include the collection and analysis of attendance patterns, the training of teaching staff members in their attendance responsibilities, and the counseling of teaching staff members for whom regular and prompt attendance is a problem.

N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4; 18A:28-5; 18A:30-1 ;18A:30-2; 18A:30-4

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A. Review of Attendance Data

1. A record shall be kept of the attendance of each teaching staff member, including teachers, educational services personnel, and administrators. Any absence, for part or all of a school day, shall be recorded along with the reason for the absence. The record will distinguish sick leave, professional days, unpaid leaves of absence, personal leave, and other approved leaves. The employee's attendance record will include notation of verification of an absence where such verification is required by Policy No. 3432. The employee's rate of absence shall be calculated every pay period and entered on his/her attendance record. An employee's attendance record shall be part of the employee's personnel file.
2. A cumulative attendance record shall be assembled for each school in the district and also for the school district as required by the New Jersey Department of Education.
3. An attendance summary shall be prepared from the cumulative attendance record. The attendance summary shall show the rate of absence for each school and for the district. The attendance summary shall be posted in each school of the district.

B. Attendance Improvement Plan

1. Planning
 - a. Each absence of a teaching staff member shall be reported by the teaching staff member in accordance with the school district's procedure.
 - b. The absence of a teaching staff member shall be provided to the teaching staff member's Principal or supervisor designated by the Superintendent, as appropriate, who shall determine if a substitute or replacement is required for the period of the absence.
 - c. A report of such absences shall also be provided to the Superintendent or designee.
 - d. The Principal or supervisor designated by the Superintendent shall determine if an absence requires further verification. Reasons for further verification may include, but are not limited to, the following:



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- (1) A pattern of absences on the same day(s) of the week;
- (2) A pattern of absences before or after nonworking days;
- (3) The habitual exhaustion of personal leave.

The Superintendent will meet with Building Principals and appropriate administrators to discuss the attendance summary. The attendance summary shall be analyzed for patterns of absence, such as excessive absenteeism in a given school or work place, among certain groups of employees, for certain specific causes, or on certain days of the week, month, or year. Specific strategies for reducing the rate of absence shall be developed.

2. Implementation

- a. The Building Principal shall be responsible for implementing the district's plan for the improvement of professional staff member attendance in his/her school building.
- b. The Principal shall encourage the regular attendance of the teaching staff members in his/her building. He/She shall maintain contact with absent employees and confer personally with each employee who returns from an absence of any duration, impressing upon employees the district's concern for their health and well-being. The Principal shall, by appropriate means, recognize teaching staff members whose attendance is exemplary.
- c. The Principal shall incorporate, and shall direct other supervisors to incorporate, a teaching staff member's attendance record in his/her evaluation.
- d. The Principal may require teachers to evaluate the work done by substitutes in their absence.
- e. The Principal shall report to the Superintendent any teaching staff member whom he/she suspects of misusing sick leave or falsifying the reasons for absence.

3. Counseling

- a. The Building Principal may, in his/her discretion, call a conference with a teaching staff member where the number and/or pattern of the members' absences or the reasons offered for the member's absences indicate a misunderstanding of the teaching staff member's responsibility to the school district or the possible misuse of the privilege of paid leave.



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- b. Prior to the giving of any admonition or reprimand or imposition of discipline of any kind, the Principal shall determine the nature of the absences and consider any extenuating circumstances.
- c. A written report of any attendance conference shall be prepared and retained with the teaching staff member's evaluations. The member shall, in accordance with Board policy on teaching staff member evaluation, be permitted to examine the report and affix his/her comments, if any, to the report.

C. Record of Attendance

1. A record shall be kept of the attendance of all teaching staff members, including supervisors. Any absence, for part or all of a school day, shall be recorded with the reason for the absence. A teaching staff member's attendance record shall be part of the teaching staff member's personnel file.
2. The record will distinguish sick leave; professional days; unpaid leaves of absences; personal leave; bereavement leave; and any other leaves taken by the teaching staff member. The teaching staff member's attendance record will include notation of verification of an absence where such verification is required by the Superintendent, Policy 1642.01, or any other law or Board policy.
3. A teaching staff member's rate of absence shall be calculated at least once per school year and entered on the teaching staff member's attendance record.
4. At the end of each school year, the Superintendent of Schools, Principals, and teaching staff members' supervisors designated by the Superintendent will review attendance records for teaching staff members.

D. Attendance Improvement Plan

1. The attendance record prepared for teaching staff members shall be analyzed for patterns of absence, such as excessive absenteeism in a given school or work place, among certain groups of employees, for certain specific causes, or on certain days of the week, month, or year.
2. Specific strategies for reducing the rate of absences shall be developed.
3. The Superintendent shall designate an administrator or supervisor to be responsible for implementing the approved plan for the improvement of teaching staff member attendance in the school district and in schools in



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the district.

4. The record of a conference(s) dealing with excessive absenteeism may serve as an element in the evaluation of any teaching staff member's performance.

E. In-Service Training

1. The teaching staff member's Principal or supervisor designated by the Superintendent shall meet with teaching staff members at the beginning of each school year to:
 - a. Inform teaching staff members of Board policy and district regulations on attendance;
 - b. Familiarize employees with the procedures to be used in requesting, reporting, and verifying absences; and
 - c. Acquaint teaching staff members with the degree to which attendance will affect evaluation reports.