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Policy 5200 ATTENDANCE

The Board of Education requires that the pupils enrolled in the schools of this district attend school regularly in accordance with the laws of the state. The educational program offered by this district is predicated on the presence of the pupil and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation. The regular contact of pupils with one another in the classroom and their participation in a well-planned instructional activity under the tutelage of a competent teacher are vital to this purpose.

Attendance at school may be excused when the demonstrated mental or physical condition of the pupil is such as to interfere with learning or prevent attendance, or by the observance of the pupil's religion on a day approved by the Board as a religious holiday, or by such circumstances as the building principal may determine constitute good cause. All other absences are unexcused.

Pupils absent from school for any reason are responsible for the completion of assignments missed because of their absence. No student excused for a religious holiday shall be deprived of an award or eligibility to compete for an award or the opportunity to make up a test given on the religious holiday.

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

Effective September 1995, Vineland High School will maintain a "zero attendance policy" for all students. This policy will emphasize the importance of daily attendance, and will adversely affect students who are absent as follows:

1. Students' class participation grades will be adversely affected on each absence. When absent, students may make up missed assignments, test, quizzes, etc. but are unable to make up missed time in class discussion and group interaction.
2. Students attendance will be monitored by the school administration, and commencing with the 10th absence from school will be subject to an administrative review process.
3. Students who continue to be absent in excess of 12 days will be identified for possible placement into the Vineland After School Program or the Vineland Alternative High School.
4. Parents of students absent in excess of 30 days, or who are absent for five or more consecutive days will be referred to the courts in accordance with state law.
5. Students who are absent in excess of 12 days will lose the privilege to drive.

6. Students who are absent in excess of 12 days will lose the privilege to participate in all school activities. This provision pertains to proms, semi-formals and all clubs and organizations. It also includes participation in plays, musicals and athletics.

7. Students who lose the privilege to drive and participate in extracurricular activities may regain those privileges by demonstrating 30 consecutive days of perfect attendance and promptness.

Unexcused absences from school or from classes within the school day constitute trancies and shall be subject to the disciplinary rules of the Board. Repeated trancies that interfere with efforts of this Board and its staff in the maintenance of good order and the continuity of classroom instruction may result in the suspension or expulsion of any pupil from the course of study during which absences have occurred or the suspension or expulsion from school of a pupil over sixteen years of age, in accordance with Policy Nos. 5410 and 5420. Before any such action is taken, every effort shall be made to identify the habitual truant, investigate the cause or causes of the pupil's behavior, and consider the modification of the pupil's educational program.

The Superintendent shall calculate and monitor the average daily attendance rate for the district and for each school in the district. Whenever the average daily attendance rate is below ninety percent for the district or below eighty-five percent in any one school, the Superintendent shall develop and implement an attendance improvement plan. The attendance rate shall be calculated by dividing total pupil days present for all pupils by the total possible pupil days for all pupils and multiplying the result by one hundred.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14 et seq.; 18A:38-25 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 34:2-21.1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6:20-1.1 et seq.

Adopted: 11 June 1997