

# Policies

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## Newport Public Schools Students – Administrative Policies - Attendance

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Rhode Island law states that, "Every child who . . . has not completed eighteen (18) years of life shall regularly attend some public day school during all the days and hours that the public schools are in session . . ."

It is the responsibility of each student to attend school regularly and to remain in school for the full day.

All students of the Newport Public Schools, including students in regular classes who have reached the age of 18, students in the adult education program, and any post-secondary students attending the high school, shall observe all the rules and regulations established by Committee policy or the school administration for all students unless special exceptions have been made.

As required by law, the School Committee shall annually appoint an attendance officer. Principals shall promptly report to the attendance officer every truant and every student suspected of truancy, and also any absentees whose attendance is so irregular as to make their parents liable under the law.

When the attendance officer is unable to secure the attendance at school, either public or private, of any child who is a habitual truant, or who is required by the provisions of law to attend school, or who is a habitual school offender, it shall be the duty of such officer to prosecute according to the law.

The School Committee believes that a high school diploma signifies the minimum preparation for life. Consequently, students who withdraw from school may have less than a minimal preparation. Students shall be encouraged to stay in school, but if they leave, the reasons they leave school before graduation shall be recorded by the counseling office in the form of a brief exit report which shall be maintained for planning purposes.

With the approval of the Superintendent of Schools and such decision-making bodies at the school-level as the Teacher Support Team or the Evaluation Team for Special Education students, students may be permitted to be absent for part of the regular school day to receive instruction elsewhere, participate in a work-study or internship program, or for reasons in the best interests of the child.

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### References

RI Gen. Laws § 16-19-1

RI Gen. Laws § 16-19-3

**History:** JEA; JECE, 5/10/83; JED, 10/9/61; JEDA, 10/9/61; JFD, 1978; JEF, 10/9/61.

Revised: 09/16/2014 First Reading  
10/14/2014 Second Reading & Adoption