



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: March 19, 2025
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

New Resources to Address Chronic Absenteeism and Support Regular School Attendance

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to announce updated resources for addressing chronic absenteeism and supporting regular school attendance. The webpage, [Conditions for Learning](#), contains supporting materials to launch local Attendance Awareness campaigns at the LEA level as well as acts as a hub for resources related to supporting regular student attendance.

In order for students to learn and achieve their fullest potential, it is critical that students are in school and engaged in the learning process. Chronic absenteeism is defined as having missed 10 percent or more days of school for any reason—this includes excused and/or unexcused absences. This means a student is considered chronically absent if they have missed as few as two days of school a month.

Key steps/actions

- Visit the [Conditions for Learning](#) webpage to access Attendance Awareness Campaign Materials;
- Review [Data-based Decision Making for Addressing Chronic Absenteeism](#), which demonstrates how the New Jersey Tiered System of Supports framework can aid districts in efforts to understand and address barriers to regular school attendance;
- Review [Engaging Families and Supporting School Attendance](#), which recognizes the role families/guardians play in a student's educational journey. Additionally, the [Absence Assessment Tool](#) includes a series of questions, offered in ten languages, that are designed to assist schools to identify the root causes of their student absenteeism, and;
- Review guidance, [Reporting Student Attendance and Determining Chronic Absenteeism Rates](#).

Contact Information

For additional questions, please contact the Office of Student Support Services via Attendance@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group