



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: May 7, 2025  
To: Local Educational Agency Leads  
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Services

## Frequently Asked Questions Related to Chronic Absenteeism and Supporting Regular Attendance

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to announce the release of a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, [Chronic Absenteeism: Frequently Asked Questions and Compliance Guidance](#) on the [Conditions for Learning](#) webpage. The FAQs were developed in response to inquiries and suggestions shared by school and local educational agency (LEA) leaders following virtual technical assistance sessions conducted by the NJDOE's County Offices of Education.

The [Conditions for Learning](#) webpage is dedicated to addressing chronic absenteeism and supporting regular school attendance. The page offers a range of resources designed to assist schools and districts in promoting attendance and engaging families, including downloadable posters to support local Attendance Awareness campaigns, sample form letters to strengthen communication with families, and sample survey items that schools can use to collaborate with parents in identifying and addressing the root causes of absenteeism. Together, these resources provide practical tools to foster a shared commitment between schools and families to encourage student attendance.

### Key steps/actions

- Review the [New Jersey School Performance Reports](#), which now include a column identifying if a Corrective Action Plan is required in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25.1;
- Review [Engaging Families and Supporting School Attendance](#), a resource aimed at assisting schools and districts in effectively engaging with families to support and improve school attendance. Recognizing the vital role families play in a student's educational journey, this document provides practical strategies and survey item recommendations for fostering strong partnerships between schools and families;
- Review [Chronic Absenteeism: Frequently Asked Questions and Compliance Guidance](#), and;
- Review [Data-based Decision Making for Addressing Chronic Absenteeism](#) resource, which demonstrates how the New Jersey Tiered System of Supports framework can aid districts in efforts to understand and address barriers to regular attendance.

### Contact Information

For additional questions, please contact the Office of Student Support Services via [Attendance@doe.nj.gov](mailto:Attendance@doe.nj.gov).

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