

Every Student, Every Day

Student Attendance Matters



The Neshaminy School District believes that attendance is critical for a student's success. Learning and connections with classmates are significantly affected when students miss school. Being on time and attending school regularly is necessary for student success, and we rely on you to help your child develop good attendance habits.

The [Pennsylvania School Code](#), which are Pennsylvania's school laws, outline procedures schools must follow regarding attendance. These laws and procedures are included in the Neshaminy School Board Policy 204, which requires that every parent and guardian have their child enroll in school "no later than age six (6) and remain in school until the age of 18 or graduation from a high school, whichever occurs first." This is referred to as compulsory school age.

The District understands that sometimes a student's absence from school is necessary. The information below outlines important details on excused/unexcused absences, truancy, and potential consequences.

An absence is an EXCUSED absence for any of the following reasons: illness, quarantine, death of an immediate family member, medical or dental appointments, authorized school activities, exceptionally urgent reasons, required court attendance, religious holidays observed by bona fide religious groups, religious instruction up to 36 hours per school year, as per the Pennsylvania School Code.

- In the case of an excused absence, you can make up any work or tests missed. However, the student is responsible for making arrangements with their teachers for make-up work.

****All student absences are marked UNEXCUSED until an excuse note is submitted to your child's school.****

An UNEXCUSED absence is a serious matter. It occurs when a student is absent for reasons other than those listed as excused. Please note that an unexcused absence is unlawful for all students of compulsory school age and can lead to significant consequences.

When a student of compulsory age has three days (or the equivalent) of unexcused absences, your school will send a letter notifying you that your child is truant (a term defined by the School Code). If unlawful absences continue, the school will conduct a school attendance improvement conference (SAIC), which you will be invited to attend, and at which we will develop a school attendance improvement plan (SAIP). This plan will assist you and your family in ensuring your child's regular school attendance.

A student is considered habitually truant after the sixth unlawful absence (in any one school year). The District must follow additional requirements based on the student's age. These consequences may include filing a citation with the District Magistrate or referral to Children and Youth Services.

- For students younger than 15: The District must refer the student to a school/community-based school attendance program or to Children and Youth Services, and a citation may be filed with the District Magistrate.
- For students between 15 and 18: The District must either refer the child to a school—or community-based school attendance program or file a citation with the District Magistrate.

To keep you informed about your child's attendance and to ensure their safety, the school may notify you by phone, email, and/or text message that a student's absence has occurred.

Please also recognize that students who miss more than 20 days may be unable to participate in PIAA sports. Special consideration will be given for serious illnesses.

The Neshaminy community is fortunate to have many caring professionals, including school counselors, school nurses, home and school visitors/school social workers, school psychologists, teachers, support staff, and administrators, to support you and your child. However, we need your help to ensure your child comes to school regularly, on time, ready to learn, and we are here to assist you in this journey.

Policy 204 is available [HERE](#).

Resources and Who to Contact for Attendance Support:

Elementary and Secondary Resources [HERE](#).

Contact information for School Social Workers/Home and School Visitors can be found [HERE](#).

Contact information for School Counselors can be found [HERE](#).

Contact information for School Nurses can be found [HERE](#).

SafeArrival

In January 2025, the District will transition to an online system called Safe Arrival to support absence reporting.

SafeArrival reduces the time it takes to verify student attendance, makes it easier for you to report your child's absence, and makes it more efficient for staff to respond to unexplained student absences.

More information about SafeArrival will be shared closer to its launch date.

