



Framingham Public Schools

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NEW ATTENDANCE POLICY

In January 2017, members of the Framingham Public Schools' (FPS) School Committee approved a new attendance policy. For the past year, an interdisciplinary team of teachers, administrators, and student support staff has been meeting to review chronic absenteeism in the district, and to develop supportive and coordinated strategies for schools to use to reduce tardiness and absenteeism in all schools. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10 percent or more school days in an academic year for any reason, excused or unexcused.

During the 2015-16 school year, 2,509 (29.6%) students missed 10 or more days; 1,017 students (12%) were chronically absent; 856 (10%) students had 10 or more unexcused absences. We believe that every one of these absences results in missed learning opportunities for our students.

The new policy is designed to clarify reasons for excused and unexcused absences, and to serve as guidance for families to encourage their children to attend school every day. Going forward, schools will focus their efforts on decreasing absenteeism in three major areas:

- Identification of attendance issues and regular monitoring of attendance data early in the school year;
- Engagement of students and families to increase understanding of the importance of attending school every day;
- Provision of early and personalized outreach and interventions to individual students and families.

In the coming weeks, please look for the link to our new attendance webpage at <http://www.framingham.k12.ma.us/>.