

Yonkers Public Schools Attendance Policy

All students have a right to educational opportunities that will enable them to develop to their fullest potential. In order to access these opportunities, students must be in attendance in school. Regular school attendance maximizes students' interaction with their teachers and peers and is a major component of academic success. Improved school attendance generally increases student achievement and reduces the drop-out rate. The Yonkers Public Schools strives to achieve a rate of attendance of 100% in all schools. This goal can only be accomplished through the cooperation of all members of the school community, including parents, students, teachers, administrators, and support staff.

Excused absences include:

- Personal illness with a physician's note
- Illness or death in family with a note
- Religious observance
- Attendance at a health clinic with a note from the clinic
- Quarantine with a note from a physician
- Required court appearance with a copy of the appearance ticket
- College visit with administrative approval
- Military obligation with a copy of the military order
- Suspension

Unexcused absences include:

- Absent from school without a note as required
- Present in school but absent from a class for any reason other than the exceptions noted: (a) administrative altered schedule; (b) school operated pull-out lessons; (c) school testing; (d) curriculum based field trips; and (e) approved participation in school/District extra-curricular activities and athletic events.

The Yonkers Public Schools is committed to reducing chronic absenteeism. **A student shall be considered chronically absent when he or she has missed at least ten percent of enrolled school days.** The emphasis here is on missed instruction, and as such, when determining chronic absenteeism, both unexcused and excused absences shall be taken into account.

It must be noted that a significant, unexcused absentee rate that has a detrimental effect on a student's education can serve as the basis for a finding of educational neglect against a parent. Additionally, habitual unexcused absence or irregular attendance by a student of compulsory school age constitutes grounds for filing a person in need of supervision (PINS) petition in family court.