

School Board Attendance Policy

The board requires that school-aged children enrolled in the District attend school in accordance with all applicable state laws and Board policies. The educational program offered by the district is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation in order for students to achieve academic standards and consistent classroom educational progress.

Supporting Your Child

Each school has an Attendance Team. Team members may include administrators, guidance counselors, nurses, school psychologist, as well as other individuals. The purpose of this team is to review patterns and trends regarding individual student attendance and to work collaboratively with parents/guardians to ensure success for all students. Parents are encouraged to call their child's school for additional information and support.

How to Report Your Child's Absence

Merrimack High School

603-424-6204 (Extension 6, then 1)

Hours: 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Merrimack Middle School

603-424-6289 (Extension 1)

Hours: 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Mastricola Upper Elementary School

603-424-6221 (Extension 2, then 5)

7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Thorntons Ferry Elementary School

603-889-1577 (Extension 1)

7:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Reeds Ferry Elementary School

603-424-6215 (Extension 1)

7:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Mastricola Elementary School

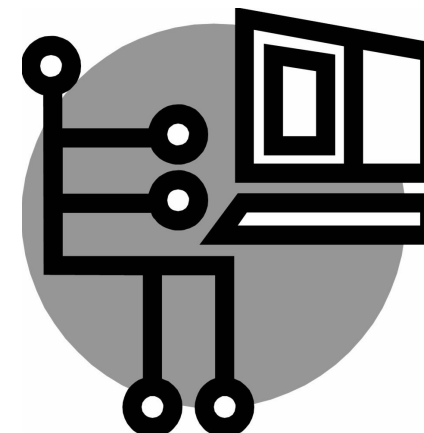
603-424-6218 (Extension 1, then 2)

7:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Merrimack Public Schools

Attendance Policy

A Guide to the
Requirements and Expectations
for Parents and Students



**MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Superintendent's Office
36 McElwain Street
Merrimack, NH 03054**

**603-424-6200
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Family Trips/Educational Opportunities

The school Principal or his/her designee may also grant an excused absence for family trips, under the following conditions.

Parents are required to provide, in writing, a note to the Principal, at least two weeks prior to the trip, explaining the reason for the absence, including why and for how long the student will be absent due to the trip.

The Principal must make a determination and will provide written notification of his/her decision to the parent in advance of the trip.

Please note that, even in the event of an excused absence due to a family trip, the report card must still reflect the absence.

Vacations during the school year are strongly discouraged. Knowing this, parents should keep in mind the aforementioned information.

The Importance Of School Attendance

On August 13, 2012 the Merrimack School Board approved a new and updated attendance policy. It is very important that parents and students understand the revised rules and expectations regarding school attendance. The basis of this revised attendance policy rests on the fact that the Merrimack School District supports students to achieve high state and local standards by creating an educational environment that makes every instructional moment count for children. Parents play a vital role in helping us achieve this goal by ensuring that their children are present and on time every day to make the most of their instructional time and learning opportunities.

The entire School Board Attendance Policy can be found on the Merrimack School District Website at:
www.sau26.org
select *Departments*
select *Superintendent's Office*
select *District Policies*

The Merrimack School Board considers the following to be excused absences.

1. Illness
2. Recovery from an accident
3. Required court attendance
4. Medical and dental appointments
5. Bereavement
6. Religious holiday
7. Absence excused by an administrator or permitted by law

RSA 189: Truancy Defined

Truancy is defined as any unexcused absence from class or school. Ten half days or five full days of unexcused absence during a school year constitute habitual truancy.

Other Important things to know:

- All excused absences are still recorded as absences on the report card.
- Any absence that has not been excused for any of the approved reasons listed above will be considered unexcused.
- In the event of an emergency or illness, parents must call and inform the school. For other excused absences, parents must provide a written notice that states a reason for absence.

To facilitate contact with your child's school, we have provided for your convenience the phone number of each school's attendance clerk. These numbers can be found on the back of this brochure. We have also listed office hours.