

North Attleborough Public Schools
John Woodcock Administration Building
6 Morse Street
North Attleborough, MA 02760

Office of the Superintendent

September 2008

Dear Parents and Students:

Regular school attendance is important for academic success. When students are absent they miss valuable information and lessons that are necessary to meet new world class standards. Our system-wide goal is to improve local school attendance at every grade level.

Families, schools and community members must work as a team to support school attendance. Nothing can lead to more positive results more quickly than the collaborative efforts of those groups.

This pamphlet will explain the attendance expectations for North Attleborough Public School students. I hope you find it to be helpful.

Very truly,

Richard A. Smith
Superintendent of Schools

Is school attendance required?

Yes, all children must attend school beginning in September of the calendar year in which he/she attains the age of six. **Starting in September 2008**, students will be required to be six years old by August 31 to enter the first grade in North Attleborough Public Schools. North Attleborough children who reach five years of age on or before August 31 of the current school year are eligible to enroll in the North Attleborough Public School's Kindergarten program. Students must attend school until their 16th birthday. Of course, it is our expectation that all children will attend school through their high school graduation date. Students who reside in North Attleborough must be enrolled in a public, independent, private, parochial, or home school each year during the period that schools are in session.

When is school attendance not required?

School attendance is not required when students have an excused absence.

What are examples of excused absences?

- death in the student's family
- illness of the student (a doctor's certificate is required for a student absent more than five days)
- observance of a religious holiday
- medical reasons such as a doctor's appointment
- court appointment
- college visits
- school sanctioned absences

What are unexcused absences?

Unexcused absences occur when school-aged students are absent from school, with or without parental approval, for reasons such as:

- babysitting
- shopping
- doing errands
- oversleeping
- cutting classes
- job hunting
- family vacation

When a student returns to school after an absence, a note should be sent with him/her to the teacher or office. This note should include the date(s) of the absence and the reason. A doctor's/dentist's certificate should be provided for medical appointments scheduled during the school day.