

CHAPTER 3 **SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

Authority

N.J.S.A. 18A:4-10, 18A:4-15, 18A:6-10, 18A:6-50, 18A:7A-1, 18A:7A-1.1, 18A:10-6, 18A:12-21 et seq., 18A:13-14, 18A:16-1, 18A:17-14 to 14.3, 18A:27-15, 18A:17-17, 18A:17-20, 18A:17-32, 18A:22-14, 18A:22-19, 18A:22-22, 18A:24-11, 18A:28-9 to 28-13, 18A:29-6 to 29-16, 18A:40-12.1 and 18A:49-1 to 49-8.

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Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 3, School Districts, became effective prior to September 1, 1969.

Subchapter 2, Pupil Records, was adopted as R.1975 d.124, effective May 16, 1975. See: 6 N.J.R. 465(a), 7 N.J.R. 251(b).

Subchapter 3, Withdrawal from Limited Purpose Regional School Districts, was adopted as R.1976 d.286, effective September 8, 1976. See: 8 N.J.R. 458(a).

Subchapter 4, Senior Citizens' Transportation, was adopted as R.1977 d.129, effective April 13, 1977. See: 9 N.J.R. 113(a), 9 N.J.R. 212(b).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), this chapter was readopted as R.1983 d.248, effective June 3, 1983. See: 15 N.J.R. 376(a), 15 N.J.R. 1016(b).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Subchapter 3, Withdrawal from Limited Purpose Regional School Districts, was readopted as R.1983 d.368, effective August 18, 1983. See: 15 N.J.R. 728(a), 15 N.J.R. 1468(c).

Subchapter 5, Reporting of Allegations of Child Abuse, was adopted as R.1989 d.193, effective April 3, 1989. See: 21 N.J.R. 3(b), 21 N.J.R. 892(a).

Subchapter 6, Enforcement of Drug Free School Zones, was adopted as R.1989 d.354, effective July 3, 1989. See: 21 N.J.R. 817(a), 21 N.J.R. 1824(b).

Subchapter 7, Provisions for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, was adopted as R.1990 d.615, effective December 17, 1990. See: 22 N.J.R. 2630(a), 22 N.J.R. 3734(b).

Chapter 3, School Districts, was repealed and replaced by new rules pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978) as R.1993 d.272, effective June 7, 1993. See: 25 N.J.R. 1095(a), 25 N.J.R. 2249(a).

Subchapter 9, School Ethics Commission, was adopted as R.1993 d.394, effective August 2, 1993. See: 25 N.J.R. 1924(a), 25 N.J.R. 3511(a).

Subchapter 4A, Promotion and High School Graduation Requirements and Procedures, was recodified from N.J.A.C. 6:8-7 by R.1998 d.457, effective September 8, 1998. See: 30 N.J.R. 1479(a), 30 N.J.R. 3261(b).

Subchapter 8, Provisions for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, was recodified as N.J.A.C. 6:5 by R.1999 d.296, effective September 7, 1999. See: 31 N.J.R. 1409(a), 31 N.J.R. 2640(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Subchapters 1 through 7 and Subchapter 9 were readopted as R.1999 d.342, effective September 10, 1999. Subchapter 9, School Ethics Commission, was recodified as Subchapter 8, School Ethics Commission, by R.1999 d.342, effective October 4, 1999. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

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SUBCHAPTER 1. BOARDS OF EDUCATION

6:3-1.1 Board of school estimate

In any district board of education operating under N.J.S.A. 18A:9-2, the mayor of the municipality comprising the school district shall be the presiding officer of the board of school estimate, and in the event of the absence of the mayor at any meeting of the board of school estimate, the members thereof present at such meeting shall proceed to elect a presiding officer pro tem.

Case Notes

Rescission of candidate's withdrawal from school board election affirmed. *Monaghan v. Board of Education of Ridgefield Park*, 97 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 471.

School board's bylaws providing for agenda meeting before holding regular board meeting not legally enforceable. *Sooy v. Mainland Regional High School District*, 97 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 295.

Commissioner of Education could not intervene in school board's decision not to extend minibuses service where decision was not proven unreasonable. *Shrewsbury v. Board of Education of Holland Township*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 795.

Failure to rehire recovered disability retiree was within school board's discretion. *Bublin v. Board of Education of the Borough of Point Pleasant*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 768.

School board's policy to ban backpacks in interest of safety constituted valid exercise of discretion. *Board of Education of Bernards Township v. C.M.*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 762.

Post-referendum change from two-story plan to one-story plan for new school was within school board's discretion. *Shuster v. Montgomery Township Board of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 670.

Appointment of school board member by lame-duck mayor with less than one month remaining in his term. *Cordasco v. Board of Education of the Town of West New York*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 661.

Open Public Meeting Act was not violated by socializing after board of education meeting. *Kesselman v. Edison, Township Board of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 436.

School board member not entitled to legal expenses incurred for personal reasons rather than in line of duty. *Quick v. Old Bridge Township Board of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 116.

Employment as deputy fire chief did not place individual in conflict of interest so as to disqualify him from seeking election to school board. *Battiloro v. Westfield Board of Education*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 445.

Functions and duties as school business administrator and as mayor were inherently antagonistic and warranted administrator's suspension for conflict of interest. *Irvington Municipal Council v. Steele*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 123.

Bus driver for transportation company under contract with district board was not automatically ineligible for board membership. *Union Board of Education v. Andrews*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 350.

Submission date for nominating petitions for school board membership; insufficient signatures and subsequent registration of signers. *Jones v. Peddle*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 362.

Local school boards could not aggregate health coverage. *Millstone Township Teachers Association v. Millstone Township Board of Education*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 802.

Police officer assigned as security officer at high school was not disqualified from membership on board of education. *Ubal dini v. Cancel*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 457.

Board employee and union official not qualified to seek election to Board. *Board of Education of Township of Howell v. Suchcicki*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 157.

No disqualifying conflict of interest between police officer's membership on board of education and providing security services. *North Brunswick Township Education Association v. Board of Education of Township of North Brunswick*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 74.

Board of education membership; conflict of interest; law suit. *Board of Education of Township of Jackson, Ocean County v. Acevedo*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 163.

6:3-1.2 Special meetings of district boards of education

In every school district of the State, it shall be the duty of the secretary of the board of education to call a special meeting of the board whenever requested by the president of the board to do so or whenever there shall be presented to such secretary a petition signed by a majority of the whole number of members of the district board of education requesting the special meeting. Public notice of such special meeting shall be made pursuant to law and regulation. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:10-6, the public notice shall include the date, time, location, and purpose(s) of the special meeting.

Amended by R.1999 d.342, effective October 4, 1999.

See: 31 N.J.R. 1662(a), 31 N.J.R. 2917(a).

Updated a reference.

Case Notes

School board acted improperly and in violation of open meeting requirements by discussing public business after meeting had officially ended. *Davis v. Willingboro Board of Education*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 352.

Cancellation of public forum; school board policies and Open Public Meetings Act. N.J.S.A. 10:4-12. *Fuhrmann v. Board of Educ. of the Borough of Middlesex*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 416.

6:3-1.3 (Reserved)

Repealed by R.2001 d.140, effective May 7, 2001.

See: 33 N.J.R. 419(a), 33 N.J.R. 1415(a).

Section was "Minimum bond requirements for treasurer of school moneys".

6:3-1.4 Local district responsibility for employment of staff

(a) State certification requirements are those structured training and competency evaluation requirements that are prescribed by the State Board of Education in order to protect the public. In addition, the teaching and other background experiences of candidates for professional positions may often be important considerations in the local selection of specific staff for specific positions. Each district board of education shall determine the types of background experiences and personal qualities, if any, that the district requires or prefers successful candidates for specific positions to possess in addition to appropriate State certification. Such local requirements shall be based upon a careful review of the position in question, and the requirements shall emphasize the nature of experience and the quality of individual achievement desired, rather than only the amount of experience.

(b) No teaching staff member shall be employed in the public schools by any board of education unless he or she is the holder of a valid certificate (see N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2). In addition, district boards of education should exercise their right and responsibility to require job candidates to present other, more detailed documentation of their competency. Such documentation includes resumes, references, records of past experiences, college transcripts, certification test scores, assessment reports, internship evaluations, and other documentation of competency relevant to the specific position.

(c) District boards of education shall assign to administrative positions those functions which are consistent with the individual qualifications of the position occupant, and shall support the establishment of structures for making instructional decisions that take administrator qualifications into account.

Case Notes

Applicant for position as school custodian failed to demonstrate adequate rehabilitation from narcotics conviction where applicant was still on probation for most recent offense, and applicant had violated probation many times in past. In the Matter of Vincent L. Lindsey, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 1020.

School board member was reprimanded for voting on his wife's employment as classroom aide. In the Matter of Wayne Wurtz, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 843.

Bus driver who failed to demonstrate rehabilitation after assault conviction was disqualified from school employment. In the Matter of the Disqualification of Srebnick, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 833.

Chronic and excessive absenteeism warranted removal of tenured secretary. In the Matter of the Tenure Hearing of Linda Latona, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 800.

Excessive absenteeism warranted withholding of employee's salary increment. Webb v. Board of Education of the Town of West Orange, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 782.

Tenured employee's excessive absenteeism, neglect of duty, and misbehavior constituted sufficient cause for termination. In the Matter of Deal, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 703.

Board of Education employee failed to establish entitlement to 60 days notice that her position would be eliminated. Allen v. Newark Board of Education, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 688.

School custodian with criminal record was qualified for employment when proof of rehabilitation was shown. In the Matter of the Disqualification From School Employment of McCullough, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 680.

Board of Education must provide analysis of job duties for newly created teaching position to determine reasonableness of dual certification requirement. Kopko v. Board of Education of the Borough of Cateret, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 665.

Bus driver was properly dismissed after she was charged with narcotics possession, despite fact that charges were dropped upon driver's completion of pre-trial intervention program. Fagan v. Toms River School District Board of Education, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 622.

Hearing disability consultant who demonstrated rehabilitation was not disqualified from school employment despite drug conviction. Kalapos v. New Jersey State Department of Education, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 617.

Custodian with drug use record was not disqualified from school employment when rehabilitation was proven. Pruden v. New Jersey State Department of Education, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 602.

Custodian's discharge for neglect of duty and unexplained absence from work was upheld. Jimenez v. City of Paterson School District, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 600.

Applicant seeking certification as New Jersey school principal must have master's degree or substantial equivalent course work. Fisher v. State Board of Examiners, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 561.

Bus driver with three ten-year-old drug convictions not precluded from school employment where evidence demonstrated rehabilitation. Seifred v. Department of Education, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 558.

School employee was properly disqualified from employment due to past drug charges and convictions. In the Matter of the Disqualification from School Employment of Ali, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 551.

Criminal history supported employment disqualification of teacher's aide. In the Matter of the Disqualification from School Employment of Chester, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 547.

School custodian provided sufficient evidence of rehabilitation after drug conviction to overcome disqualification from public school employment. In the Matter of the Disqualification from School Employment of Lawrence, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 532.

Single prior conviction coupled with rehabilitated lifestyle supported qualification for employment as public school security guard. In the Matter of the Disqualification from School Employment of Henderson, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 530.

Insufficient evidence of rehabilitation after drug conviction supported disqualification of applicant for teacher's aide position from public school employment. In the Matter of the Disqualification from School Employment of Gowan, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 528.

School employee's refusal to accept responsibility for criminal conduct supports disqualification from employment. Marshall v. Department of Education, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 521.

Insufficient time of drug-free status after long criminal history precludes finding of rehabilitation and supports school custodian's disqualification from employment. Butler v. Department of Education, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 517.

Bus driver's criminal history does not bar school employment where rehabilitation shown by clear and convincing evidence. Marcelle v. Department of Education, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 515.

Tenured school board employee's continuous refusal to comply with board employment policy justifies termination. In the Matter of the Tenure Hearing of Powers, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 508.

School bus driver demonstrated clear and convincing evidence of rehabilitation sufficient to overcome disqualification from school employment for prior criminal history. *Gambale v. Department of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 505.

School custodian demonstrated rehabilitation by clear and convincing evidence and removed disqualification from employment for conviction for possession of marijuana. *Trisuzzi v. Department of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 493.

Dismissal of teacher aide upheld where aide failed to demonstrate rehabilitation from past drug use. *Chester v. Department of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 456.

Tenured school district employee properly dismissed for using his position to defraud federal government. In the Matter of the Tenure Hearing of Morton, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 440.

Past drug convictions render school custodian unfit for school employment. *Campbell v. Department of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 431.

School custodian demonstrated rehabilitation from criminal lifestyle and fitness for school employment. *McCullough v. Department of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 420.

School employee working as audiovisual library technician entitled to tenure protection accorded clerks because job duties were primarily clerical. *Roach v. South Orange-Maplewood School District*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 370.

School custodian properly terminated for poor performance and unbecoming conduct. In the Matter of the Tenure Charges Against Nathan Purcell, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 364.

Tenure rights were not violated where decision to abolish school district assistant purchasing agent's position was found to be reasonable. *Dearden v. Board of Education of the City of Trenton*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 321.

Tenured school board employee's rights not affected by school board's recoupment of salary overpayment in non-tenured position. *Sklute v. Board of Education of the City of Trenton*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 264.

Payroll supervisor for school board properly removed from position for unbecoming conduct after arranging for negative withholding on his own paycheck. In the Matter of the Tenure Charges Against Morton, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 236.

School information systems control specialist not tenured clerical position. In the Matter of Dempster, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 120.

School board may abolish tenured grounds and building director's position and terminate his employment based on appointed fiscal monitor's directive. *Wollman v. Board of Education of the City of Trenton*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 20.

Equally entitled candidates for position of acting assistant principal and recognition was given to local school board's choice. *Chammings v. Rockaway Township Board of Education*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 891.

6:3-1.5 Support residencies for regularly-certified, inexperienced first-year principals

(a) Regularly-certified, inexperienced first-year principals are individuals who:

1. Acquired regular New Jersey school principal endorsements pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:11-9.5 prior to September 1, 1989;
2. Have not previously held full-time employment as principals, vice-principals, or in other positions for which the principal endorsement is required in New Jersey or elsewhere; and
3. Have been offered employment as principals or vice-principals in a New Jersey public school district.

(b) Each district employing a regularly-certified, inexperienced first-year principal shall enter into an agreement to provide a principal residency program pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:11-9.5, including a pre-residency experience, except that:

1. Entry requirements in N.J.A.C. 6:11-9.5 shall not apply to regularly-certified, inexperienced first-year principals;
2. Special certification evaluations as described in N.J.A.C. 6:119.5(c)5iv shall not be conducted for regularly-certified, inexperienced first-year principals, and no evaluations or recommendations concerning their certification shall be presented to the State Department of Education; and

(b) In cases in which the athletic facilities are not owned by the municipality or the district board of education, the district board of education shall require that adequate safeguards to players and spectators be provided by the owner. The field, room, court, track, stands and surrounding premises shall be kept in good condition and free from hazards.

(c) Upon the recommendation of the chief school administrator, the district board of education shall adopt, and thereafter, annually review a policy of emergency medical procedures for all practice sessions, and competitive contests, games, events or exhibitions with individual pupils or teams of one or more schools of the same district or of other districts. Said policy should be disseminated to appropriate personnel.

(d) Each candidate for a place on a school athletic squad or team shall be given a medical examination by the medical inspector or designated team doctor within 365 days prior to the first practice session with examinations being made available throughout the school year consistent with the district's athletic schedule. In lieu thereof, the medical inspector may accept the report of such an examination by a physician licensed to practice medicine.

1. To participate on an athletic squad or team, each candidate whose medical examination was completed more than 60 days prior to the first practice session shall provide a health history update of medical problems experienced since the last medical examination, which shall be completed by the parent or legal guardian. The health history update shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:

- i. Hospitalizations/operations;
- ii. Illness;
- iii. Injuries;
- iv. Care administered by a physician; and
- v. Medications.

2. The parent or legal guardian shall receive written notification signed by the medical inspector or team doctor approving the pupil's participation in athletics based upon the medical examination or the reasons for the medical inspector's or team doctor's disapproval of the pupil's participation shall be included in such notification. The health findings of the medical examination for participation shall be made a part of the pupil's health record.

(e) A medical examination to determine the fitness of a pupil to participate in athletics shall include, as a minimum, no less than the following:

1. A medical history questionnaire, completed by the parent or legal guardian of the pupil, to determine if the pupil:

- i. Has been medically advised not to participate in any sport, and the reason for such advice;
- ii. Is under physician's care and the reasons for such care;
- iii. Has experienced loss of consciousness after an injury;
- iv. Has experienced a fracture or dislocation;
- v. Has undergone any surgery;
- vi. Takes any medication on a regular basis, the names of such medication and the reasons for such medication;
- vii. Has allergies including hives, asthma or reaction to bee stings;
- viii. Has experienced frequent chest pains or palpitations;
- ix. Has a recent history of fatigue and undue tiredness;
- x. Has a history of fainting with exercise; and
- xi. Has a history of a family member having sudden death; and

2. A physical examination pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2.

(f) The district board of education shall adopt a policy regarding the content and procedures for the administration of the medical examination required in (e) above. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as precluding the district board of education from adopting content and procedures in excess of the minimum requirements set forth herein.

(g) Any examination conducted by a physician other than the medical inspector or designated team doctor must be reported to the medical inspector or designated team doctor on a form furnished by the district board of education and, as a minimum, include that content adopted by the board. If, at the request of the parent or legal guardian, the medical examination is conducted by a physician other than the medical inspector or designated team doctor, such examination shall not be at the expense of the district board of education.

(h) A pupil representing his or her school in interscholastic athletic competition shall sign a form furnished by the district board of education, the wording of which shall embody a request to be enrolled as a candidate for a place on a school team in a specified sport. The parent or legal guardian must execute an acknowledgement that physical hazards may be encountered.

(i) Every candidate for a place on the school athletic squad or team shall submit a form furnished by the district board of education conveying the consent of his or her parent or legal guardian to participate.

SUBCHAPTER 9. ATTENDANCE AND PUPIL ACCOUNTING

Authority

N.J.S.A. 18A:1-1, 18A:4-14, 18A:4-15, 18A:6-27, 18A:17B-12, 18A:7F, 18A:7G, 18A:17-9, 18A:17-10, 18A:17-32, 18A:17-45, 18A:18A-3.1, 18A:18A-4, 18A:18A-5, 18A:18A-7, 18A:18A-13, 18A:18A-40, 18A:19-13, 18A:20-4.2, 18A:21-1, 18A:22-8, 18A:23, 18A:24-10, 18A:29-3, 18A:33-3, 18A:36A-1, 18A:39-19, 18A:46, 18A:54-20.1, 18A:54-29.2, 18A:58-11 and 18A:58-37.1.

Source and Effective Date

R.2001 d.140, effective May 7, 2001.
See: 33 N.J.R. 419(a), 33 N.J.R. 1415(a).

6:3-9.1 School register

(a) The Commissioner shall prepare and distribute a school register which shall be known as the New Jersey School Register, for recording pupil attendance in all public schools of the State operated by district boards of education, or charter school boards of trustees, except adult high schools.

(b) Pupil attendance shall be recorded in the school register during school hours on each day the school is in session.

(c) Separate school registers shall be kept for pupils attending pre-school, A.M. kindergarten, P.M. kindergarten, full-day kindergarten, grades one through six, grades seven and eight, grades nine through 12, each pre-school handicapped class, each handicapped class, shared-time classes for regular pupils, shared-time classes for handicapped pupils, full-time bilingual education programs and vocational day programs, and summer schools operated by district boards of education.

(d) The enrollment record of all pupils sent to an approved charter school shall be recorded in the school register at the school where the pupil would have been attending, and shall be shown as a transfer.

6:3-9.2 School enrollment

(a) The enrollment in a class, a school or a school district shall be the total number of original entries plus the number of re-entries, less the number of transfers, withdrawals or dropouts in any such unit during a school year. The total number of original entries and re-entries, less the number of transfers, withdrawals or dropouts, in all the classes and schools of a school district shall constitute the school enrollment for that district board of education during any school year.

(b) No pupil attending a school operated by a district board of education shall be enrolled in more than one school register in any school district during a school year. All pupils shall be enrolled as of the first day of attendance for that year.

(c) No pupil shall be enrolled in a school register until the pupil has reached the following legal school age:

1. Preschool—four years and less;
2. Kindergarten—over four years and less than six years;
3. Day school—over five years;
4. Pre-school handicapped—over three years and less than five years.

(d) Within 10 days of the start of the school year, a school district shall determine whether any re-entering student who has not attended school that year has an excused absence or has transferred, withdrawn or dropped out of the school district.

(e) Any pupil enrolled in a school register in a school district who moves to another school district in the same school year shall be enrolled in one register in the new school district upon entering school in that district.

(f) The average daily enrollment in a school district for a school year shall be the sum of the days present and absent of all enrolled pupils when schools were in session during the year, divided by the number of days schools were actually in session. The average daily enrollment for the classes or schools of a district having varying lengths of terms shall be the sum of the average daily enrollments obtained for the individual classes or schools.

(g) The average daily attendance in a school district for a school year shall be the sum of the days present of all enrolled pupils when schools were in session during the year, divided by the number of days schools were actually in session. The average daily attendance for the classes or schools of a district having varying lengths of terms shall be the sum of the average daily attendance obtained for the individual classes or schools.

6:3-9.3 School attendance

(a) For purposes of school attendance, a day in session shall be a day on which the school is open and pupils are under the guidance and direction of a teacher or teachers engaged in the teaching process. Days on which school is closed for such reasons as holidays, teachers' institutes and inclement weather shall not be considered as days in session.

(b) A day of attendance shall be one in which a pupil is present for the full day under the guidance and direction of a teacher while school is in session. Whenever over-crowded conditions make it necessary to hold two separate sessions with a different group of pupils in each session a pupil attending for all of either session shall be regarded as having attended for the full day. An excused absence for any reason shall not be counted as a day of attendance in the school register.

(c) A half-day class shall be considered the equivalent of a full day's attendance only if in session for four hours or more, exclusive of recess periods or lunch periods.

(d) A record of the attendance of all pupils on roll in a school register shall be kept each day that school is in session by a teacher or other authorized person. It shall be the duty of this person to keep the attendance records according to these rules and the specific instructions printed in the school register, and if necessary, according to supplementary instructions issued from time to time by the Commissioner.

(e) No pupil shall be recorded as present unless the school is in session and the pupil or pupils so recorded are under the guidance and direction of a teacher in the teaching process.

(f) A pupil shall be recorded as absent in the school register when not in attendance at a session of the school while a member of the school, except pupils excused due to religious holidays who shall be recorded as excused.

(g) A pupil shall be recorded as either present, absent, or excused for religious observance, every day the school is in session after the pupil enters until the date the pupil is transferred to another school, or officially leaves the school system.

(h) The Commissioner shall annually prescribe a list of religious holidays on which it shall be mandatory to excuse pupils for religious observance upon the written request signed by the parent or person standing in loco parentis.

(i) The mere presence of a pupil at roll call shall not be regarded as sufficient attendance for compliance with these rules. In a school which is in session during both the forenoon and the afternoon, a pupil shall be present at least one hour during both the forenoon and the afternoon in order to be recorded as present for the full day. In a school which is in session during either the forenoon or the afternoon, a pupil shall be present at least two hours in the session in order to be recorded as present for the full day.