

District Policies and Procedures and Student Services

Student Physicals

New York State Education Law requires a health certificate or a health appraisal and requests a dental certificate for students at school entry, kindergarten and in grades 2, 4, 7, and 10. Students participating in interscholastic sports must have a current exam (within 12 months of start of the season) and an updated health history. Students requesting a work permit also must have a current physical exam.

Before a child who is mandated to have a physical examination starts school, a parent/guardian must submit a health certificate signed by a NYS licensed physician indicating the medical examination has been conducted within the previous 12 months. The school physician will conduct a physical exam if no health form is submitted.

Recent changes to the New York State Education Law require each student's health certificate or health appraisal include an assessment of Body Mass Index (BMI) and weight status. The information collected will be used to understand the severity and distribution of obesity among youth and to target resources for childhood obesity prevention to high-risk communities. No identifying information will be sent.

Census

Census information is very important to the District as it is used to determine the number of school-aged children residing in the District. Information from the census provides a basis for making enrollment projections, developing bus routes, determining future instructional needs, and determining eligibility in the Universal Pre- Kindergarten Program. New families moving into the District should notify the District Census office by calling 407-9013.

Attendance

The Board of Education requires that each minor from six to sixteen years of age shall regularly attend school full time. As a member of the school community, it is each student's basic responsibility to be on time and attend all classes. Students are responsible for keeping informed of makeup work for time missed in class. Each absence must be accounted for. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to notify the office on the morning of the absence and to provide a written excuse as soon as the student returns to school.

The following reasons for student absences or tardiness are recognized as valid:

- sickness;
- impassable roads;
- religious observance;
- approved school-sponsored trips;
- required court appearances.

Notification is also required if a child needs to be excused early. No student may be released to the custody of any individual who is not the parent or guardian of the student, unless another individual has been designated in writing. Anyone seeking the release of a student should report to the school office.

Homework

Homework provides an excellent opportunity for developing good study habits and encouraging self-initiative on the part of the student. Homework is a learning activity that increases in

complexity with the maturity of the pupil. It should be considered a gradual, progressive, and indispensable experience for all pupils. In an effort to provide education that will meet the varying needs of students, it is the policy of the Clarence Schools to have some directed homework beyond the regular school day. Homework is the responsibility of the student, but parents can assist their children by:

- asking questions about the content of student homework;
- giving requested assistance, but letting the student do his/her own work;
- helping create a "homework habit" at the same time each day.

Transportation

The Clarence School District's fleet of 100 buses logs over one million miles each year while transporting approximately 5650 students to 60 different schools, educational field trips, and athletic events. Transportation is provided for students in grades K–6 residing more than .2 mile from their school and students in grades 7-12 residing more than .9 mile from their school. The mileage

is measured from the student's home to the school or bus stop.

Students living within those guidelines (.2 mile for K-6 and .9 for 7-12) are expected to walk to school. Some students, however, may be allowed to walk back to the nearest scheduled bus stop, subject to certain limits and carrying capacity. In establishing bus routes, the staff considers health and safety measures, economy of operation, and time schedules. Prior to the start of school in September, postcards containing pickup and departure information are mailed to all registered students.

State Law

It is illegal to pass a stopped school bus when its red lights are flashing. This also applies to buses in the loading zone at each of the schools. Please obey the traffic rules posted at each school.

Child Care Accommodations

Under certain circumstances, the Transportation Department may honor requests for transportation to a site other than the student's home address. The alternative site must be the same location for all five days of the week. A parent or guardian must complete a Request for Alternate Transportation by August 1. A new form must be completed for each school year. Forms are available at all Clarence elementary schools. The form is also available for download on the District website.