



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
EDUCATION ACTIVITY
4040 NORTH FAIRFAX DRIVE
ARLINGTON, VA 22203-1635

SEP - 1 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DODEA PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: DoDEA Regulation 2095.01, "School Attendance," August 26, 2011

I am pleased to announce the implementation of the first comprehensive DoDEA policy on student attendance. This policy is based upon the foundational principle that regular student attendance promotes higher levels of student achievement, school-connectedness, and readiness for colleges and careers. The new policy mandates school attendance, requires 180 instructional days per academic year, and recognizes the reality of unavoidable absences such as illness and emergency situations. The policy also aligns with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children standard that school systems respect the unique the needs of military families when considering requests for excused absences.

We are launching this policy with an educational campaign to assist our educators, parents, students and community members about the importance of attending school regularly. Our slogan, "Be Here!" emphasizes our core belief that attendance is the gateway to a successful Kindergarten through grade 12 educational experience. Our campaign encourages that appointments or other discretionary absences be scheduled outside of the school day to maximize student learning opportunities.

Key components of the new policy include:

- A requirement for students to complete an educational plan consistent with regularly planned school work during absences
- Increased communication with parents about the effect of absences on student performance
- Referral of students with 5 days of absences to the Student Support Team and with 7 days of absences to the local Command for appropriate intervention and support
- Daily record-keeping, review, and analysis of attendance

Recognizing that this is a new policy for DoDEA, we will elicit community and school feedback in early May 2012. Policy will be revised based upon an analysis of this feedback.

Additional information regarding the DoDEA Attendance Policy is available at <http://www.dodea.edu>. Our point of contact is Mr. David Cantrell, Chief, Special Education and Student Services Branch, who may be contacted by email: david.cantrell@hq.dodea.edu or phone at (703) 588-3147.



Marilee Fitzgerald
Acting Director

Attachment:
DoDEA Regulation 2095.01, "School Attendance," August 26, 2011