

ASSEMBLY, No. 5780

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 7, 2019

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttie, Assemblymen Karabinchak, Verrelli and
Assemblywoman Timberlake**

SYNOPSIS

Permits school districts to define excused absences from school to include illness based on student's mental or behavioral health and requires Commissioner of Education to develop guidelines for defining excused absence for this reason.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/8/2019)

1 AN ACT concerning excused absences from public school and
2 supplementing chapter 36 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. A school district in developing, adopting, and
9 implementing policies and procedures regarding attendance of
10 students at school may define an excused absence from school to
11 include an absence for an illness of the student based on the mental
12 or behavioral health of the student.

13 b. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
14 Commissioner of Health, shall develop guidelines on defining an
15 excused absence from school for a student's illness based on the
16 mental or behavioral health of the student. The guidelines shall
17 include the supporting documentation that may be required by the
18 school district upon the student's return to school after an absence
19 for an illness based on the mental or behavioral health of the student
20 for the absence to be considered an excused absence.

21
22 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the second full
23 school year following the date of enactment, but the Commissioner
24 of Education may take such anticipatory administrative action in
25 advance thereof as shall be necessary for the implementation of this
26 act.

27
28
29 STATEMENT

30
31 This bill provides statutory authority for a school district, in
32 developing, adopting, and implementing its policies and procedures
33 regarding attendance of students at school, to define an excused
34 absence from school to include an absence for an illness of the
35 student based on the mental or behavioral health of the student.
36 The bill requires the Commissioner of Education, in consultation
37 with the Commissioner of Health, to develop guidelines on defining
38 an excused absence from school for a student's illness based on the
39 mental or behavioral health of the student. The guidelines will
40 include the supporting documentation that may be required by the
41 school district upon the student's return to school after an absence
42 for an illness based on the mental or behavioral health of the student
43 for the absence to be considered an excused absence.