



Frontier Central School District
Frontier Instruction Office
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Colleen Duggan
Asst. Superintendent
for Curriculum & Instruction

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Dear Frontier Parents and Guardians:

We hope your summer has been relaxing and enjoyable. We are sending this letter to our community in order to share information regarding student attendance numbers from the past year. Attendance data provided by the NYS Education Department for the 2021-2022 school year has indicated that our chronic absenteeism numbers among students are of significant concern. **The State Education Department has defined chronic absenteeism as “missing at least 10% of enrolled school days”.** In response to this information, our administrative team has worked diligently to address the issue. Our hope is to partner with our families in order to significantly decrease chronic absenteeism in the coming year.

In analyzing data from the 2021-2022 school year, the New York State Education Department found that 23% (almost 1 in 4) of students in the Frontier Central School District were chronically absent. Putting that into hard numbers, 962 students (of 4,233) missed school 19 days or more. It is important to note that these numbers do not reflect COVID quarantined students who attended virtual instruction as these students were marked present for school. Numerous studies have shown a strong relationship between school success and attendance. Consistent attendance and participation in school promotes social, emotional and academic growth in our students. Therefore, we have come up with a plan.

The Frontier Central School District Administrative Team will be engaging in a rigorous attendance monitoring system this year. Every five weeks, there will be a district-wide analysis of attendance patterns in each of our six schools. We will be identifying students who have missed 10% of the school days (to that point). We will have a system of consistent interventions in place across all buildings, and the determination of which intervention to use will be based on the number of absences for a student, as well as unique student circumstances. Interventions include, but are not limited to: letters, phone calls, meetings with building staff/administration and/or district administration, consultation with social service agencies and/or the school resource officer.

As a reminder, when your child is absent, please send them upon their return with a written note as to the reason for the absence. Every absence is initially classified as “absent-unexcused”. As dictated by our Board Policy, an unexcused absence will become excused if the following conditions are met:

- A written note is provided within 10 days of the absence
- The note provided a reason that categorizes the absence as “excused”. This would include such things as personal illness, a death in the family, court appearances and religious observation.
- Family vacations, sports tournaments and oversleeping are “unexcused” and will be marked accordingly.

When determining chronic absenteeism, the State counts ALL absences (excused AND unexcused). Throughout the year, we encourage families to talk about the importance of good attendance in school. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

We are grateful for your support, and look forward to our continued partnership.

Your in Education,

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