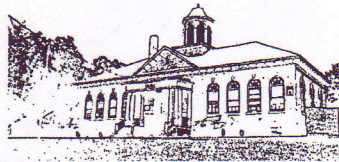


MARY ELLEN HANNON
Superintendent of Schools
MARYANN CONNORS-KRIKORIAN
Assistant Superintendent
KATHERINE L. KENNEDY
Human Resource Director
JANE M. SIMARD
Business Administrator
MINDY SCHUMAN-VYE
Title I Coordinator



Derry Cooperative School District #1
NH School Administrative Unit #10

CHRISTOPHER K. KELLAN
Director, Student Services
JAYNE M. BOYLE
Assistant Director
JOAN M. CAMPO
Assistant Director
LINDA A. DIGNEY
Assistant Director
SERENA A. LEVINE
Director, Supplemental Services

October 15, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On July 1, 2010, the New Hampshire Legislature enacted RSA 189:35-A, a law that addresses attendance, truancy, and tardiness for public school students aged 6-18. The law requires school districts adopt a policy that defines excused absences. The law also mandates that students with at least ten (10) half days of unexcused absences may be considered 'habitually truant.' Districts must develop Intervention Plans to assist families in ensuring regular school attendance for their children. If truancy continues to be an outstanding issue, districts shall notify the Department of Child and Family Services (DCYF) and may file a Child in Need of Services (CHINS) petition with the court.

Attached to this letter is the new policy adopted by the Derry Cooperative School Board on October 12, 2010. The Board, in conjunction with parent feedback, developed this policy to align with the new state law. Please note that excused absences are listed on the second page of the policy document. This list should enable parents to clearly understand what will now constitute an excused absence.

If you have additional questions or concerns regarding this new policy, please contact your school principal. Your principal will be able to assist you in adhering to the new guidelines.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Hannon
Superintendent

Enclosure: