

**Notice of Adoption Regarding Proposed Amendments
at N.J.A.C. 6A:32, School District Operations**

The following is the accessible version of the notice of adoption for amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:32. The notice of adoption document includes two sections – [comments and responses](#) and [amendment upon adoption](#).

Education

State Board of Education

School District Operations

Attendance at Civic Events

Adopted Amendments: N.J.A.C. 6A:32-2.1 and 8.4

Proposed: March 3, 2025, at 57 N.J.R. 437(a).

Adopted: July 9, 2025, by the New Jersey State Board of Education, Kevin Dehmer, Ed.D., Commissioner, Department of Education, and Secretary, State Board of Education.

Filed: July 9, 2025, as R.2025 d.092, **with a non-substantial change** not requiring additional public notice and comment (see N.J.A.C. 1:30-6.3).

Authority: P.L. 2023, c. 274.

Effective Date: August 4, 2025.

Expiration Date: June 6, 2029.

Summary of Comments and Agency Responses

The following is a summary of the comments received from members of the public and the Department of Education's (Department) responses. John Burns, Senior Legislative Counsel, New Jersey School Boards Association submitted the only comments on this rulemaking.

1. Comment: The commenter stated that the authority for the management of public schools in the State should rest with district boards of education. The commenter also stated that State authority regarding school districts should not exceed the scope necessary to fulfill the State constitutional mandate for a thorough and efficient system of free public education.

Response: The Department acknowledges the commenter's position.

2. Comment: The commenter requested the Department clarify if proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.4(e)7 allows a district board of education to enable students to participate in several hourly civic events that add up to one school day in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-33.2.a. The commenter stated this would allow a student to attend multiple civic events throughout a school year while not exceeding one State-excused absence each school year. (1)
Response: Yes, a district board of education can allow students to participate in several civic events that total one day in session per school year, if allowed by the district board of education policy adopted in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6 and 6A:32-8.4(f).
3. Comment: The commenter asked whether anything in proposed rulemaking would prohibit a district board of education from exercising its discretion to permit, through a district board of education policy, additional absences for civic events. The commenter acknowledged that additional absences would not be State-excused absences permitted by statute and regulation.
Response: No. N.J.S.A. 18A:36-33.2.a states that a district board of education “may permit additional excused absences for such purposes.”
4. Comment: The commenter requested the Department, upon adoption, change proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.4(e)7 to add “school” before “year” to align with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-33.1 and 33.2. The commenter stated the proposed change upon adoption would avoid confusion as to whether the proposed paragraph references a calendar year or a school year.
Response: The Department agrees and will change, upon adoption, N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.4(e)7.

Federal Standards Statement

The adopted amendments are not inconsistent with, or do not exceed, Federal requirements or standards as there are no Federal requirements or standards related to State-excused absences.

Full text of the adoption follows (addition to proposal indicated in boldface with asterisks ***thus***):

Subchapter 8. Student Attendance and Accounting

6A:32-8.4 Student attendance

(a)-(d) (No change from proposal.)

(e) State-excused absences shall be as follows:

1.-6. (No change from proposal.)

7. Participation in a civic event, up to one day per ***school*** year for students in grades six through 12, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-33.1 and 33.2.

(f) (No change.)