

Resolution of the Cumberland School Committee

Whereas, the RI Department of Education (RIDE) and the RI Department of Health (HEALTH) are working closely with schools to address the spread of the H1N1 Flu in Rhode Island; and

Whereas, RIDE and HEALTH have offered guidance that school departments should review any policy or procedure, written or stated verbally, that would encourage students or staff to come to school when ill or discourage students or staff from staying home to recuperate from an illness.

Whereas, it is understood the current School Committee policy states “time lost from the classroom is irretrievable, particularly in terms of opportunity for interactions between the teacher and students and among students”; and

Whereas, however, HEALTH is currently recommending the most effective way to reduce the transmission of the H1N1 Flu is to wash hands frequently/use alcohol gel, cough/sneeze into your arm, and to stay home when you are sick.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cumberland School Committee provides immediate relief from any policy or procedure, written or stated verbally, that would encourage students or staff to come to school when ill or discourage students or staff from staying home to recuperate from an illness.

Be it further resolved that teachers will have procedures to provide make-up work for all students who are absent from class. Absence from class as a result of illness or the lack of a physician’s note upon return to school from an absence due to illness should not be the reason for consequences including, but not limited to, a reduction in a grade on a test or assignment; referral to Family Court/Truancy Court; or a recommendation for grade placement.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Cumberland Public Schools employees and to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of students enrolled in the Cumberland Public Schools with the expectation that every step will be taken to implement the intent of this Resolution.

Be it further resolved that this resolution will be in effect for the 2009-2010 school year.

Approved this 8th day of October, 2009.

Ryan Pearson, Clerk
Cumberland School Committee

Donald Costa, Chairperson
Cumberland School Committee