



February 19, 2026

**NJSBA Position Statement**  
**SUPPORTING**  
**Senate Bill No. 2457**  
**(Bucco / Bramnick)**

**Permits excused absence for students participating in college visits, visits to postsecondary technical institutions, and military recruitment-related activities.**

The New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), a federation of all the state's local boards of education, supports S-2457. The NJSBA believes that students who seek to participate in activities related to military enlistment that require absence from classroom instruction should be granted a limited number of state-excused absences per school year.

As introduced, S-2457 would permit a cumulative total of three excused absences per school year for students in grades 11 or 12 for the purpose of college visits, visits to postsecondary technical institutions, or the completion of a military recruitment-related activity. As defined in the bill, a military recruitment-related activity is defined as "any activity required by the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard to be eligible to enlist in military service, including, but not limited to, any testing, medical or physical evaluations, interviews, and fingerprinting." Such absences would not be included on a student's transcript, application, employment form, or any similar form requested. The absences would also not be considered when determining if a student has a perfect attendance record for the school year.

There are currently seven permissible reasons for a state-excused absence pursuant to existing statute and code, several of which align with the NJSBA's support of students' exploration of post-secondary opportunities. The NJSBA also believes that a free and public education would not be possible without the sacrifices of the men and women who served and fought for our country and those who died to preserve our democracy. Therefore, the state should promote equitable treatment of graduating students by not limiting state-excused absences to college-bound post-secondary education opportunities. While the NJSBA often advocates for local control and opposes state-mandated excused absences, providing students with excused absences for military enlistment activities offers students the opportunity to pursue an additional post-secondary pathway while also supporting our country's armed forces.

**The NJSBA urges the Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee to approve S-2457.**

Thank you for your consideration of the NJSBA's position on this important matter. Any questions or comments may be directed to Harrison Silver, NJSBA Legislative Advocate, at [hsilver@njsba.org](mailto:hsilver@njsba.org) or (609) 278-5285.