

Dear DCPS Families,

For the last several weeks, DCPS has focused s on student attendance and student absences by providing information to our DCPS families about the importance of student attendance. We have posted information on social media and on the DCPS website about this topic each week.

Please check our posts frequently about these important issues: In the last several weeks, we have provided information in prior social media posts in regards to the questions below. We encourage you to become familiar with this important topic.

1. What are the health recommendations after COVID as to when I can send my child to school?
2. What is Chronic Absenteeism and how is my child identified as chronic?
3. What is truancy?
4. What does Chronic Absenteeism look like in DCPS and what is the impact on your child?

Today, we would like to take the opportunity to share information regarding **"How is DCPS addressing the issue of Chronic Absenteeism?"**

- During the 2023 – 2024 school year, DCPS is committed to working with students and families by communicating the importance of attendance to our families by helping children to establish habits that will help them to be successful students as well as successful adults in their careers and in the workforce

To reach this commitment:

- We have expanded breakfast options and are providing breakfast and lunch at no cost to our families.
- We have added after the bell programs such as Wolfpack After the Bell at Ridgeview Middle School and Jr. Wolfpack After the Bell for Ridgeview Elementary School and Clintwood Elementary School
- We have implemented an Absence Intervention Team at each school which is responsible for looking at individual students who are absent for numerous days, up to and including truancy and being chronically absent and ensuring their needs are met using all available resources. The Absence Intervention Team monitors data, meets with families, provides intensive interventions, establishes positive expectations, and open communication.
- We are closely monitoring and celebrating successes.
- Reducing barriers to attendance such mental health challenges by continued collaboration with Communities in Schools, Propel Counseling and Behavioral Health

- Established an Attendance Coordinator, Dwayne Edwards, to focus solely on Student Attendance.

We are asking DCPS families for their commitment to ensure that your child attends school daily.

If you have questions regarding student attendance or concerns with your child's attendance, please contact Karen Martin, Director of Compliance, at kamartin@dcps.k12.va.us or Dwayne Edwards, Attendance Coordinator, at dwedwards@dcps.k12.va.us.

Kind regards,

Haydee L. Robinson