

What Is the Out-of-Boundary Attendance Policy?

K-12 out-of-boundary students with more than **10 unexcused absences** or **20 unexcused tardies** can be asked to return to their neighborhood schools at the end of the school year, provided the out-of-boundary school has implemented and documented ALL of the required DCPS attendance interventions. This policy does not apply to students in preschool or pre-kindergarten.

What Are Attendance Expectations For All Students?

- **Arrive on time** to school and to class every day.
- **Bring books** and materials to class.
- **Ask the teacher** for missed work or make-up assignments.
- **Provide documentation** for missed days of school to local school.
- **Ask school staff for help** if you have academic or other concerns (i.e. safety or lack of transportation) preventing you from coming to school.



What Should I Do If I Lack Stable Housing and Need Assistance?

The DCPS Homeless Children and Youth Program (HCYP) provides students who are in temporary or transitional housing with the following supports:

- Enrollment in school;
- Transportation assistance;
- Personal necessities (uniforms, school supplies and more).

For more information, please contact the school-based homeless liaison at your school or call the DCPS HCYP Specialist at (202)-576-9502.



Who Do I Contact For More Information?

District of Columbia Public Schools
Office of Youth Engagement
Student Attendance & Support Service
1200 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
T 202-727-0488
F 202-535-1338



First Day, Every Day

At DC Public Schools (DCPS), it is our goal to ensure that every student achieves academic success by being present at school **every day** and **on time**. Students who have regular school attendance learn more and are more successful in school.

DCPS has shifted focus from monitoring *only* unexcused absences to *all* absences by tracking **In-Seat Attendance** (ISA). Some absences are unavoidable, but when children miss too much school - **excused** or **unexcused** - they can fall behind.

A missed day is a lost opportunity for learning. Let's make regular attendance a priority!

Is Attending School Required?

Yes, attending school is required by law! All students who reach five years of age on or before September 30th of the current school year must attend school every day until they meet high school graduation requirements or reach their 18th birthday.

What Is Truancy?

Truancy is the unexcused absence from school by a minor (5-17 years of age) with or without approval, parent knowledge or consent.

Which Absences Are Excused vs. Unexcused?

Excused absences are when school-aged students are absent from school with a valid excuse and parental approval. Excused absences include:

- Student illness (a doctor's note is required if a student is absent for more than 5 days);
- Death in the student's immediate family;
- Necessity for a student to attend a judicial proceeding as a plaintiff, defendant, witness or juror;
- Observance of a religious holiday;
- Temporary school closings due to weather, unsafe conditions or other emergencies;
- Medical reasons such as a doctor's appointment (a doctor's note is required);
- Failure of DC to provide transportation where legally responsible;
- Visiting a parent in the military;
- Emergency circumstances approved by DCPS.

Unexcused absences are when school-aged students are absent from school without a valid excuse, with or without parental approval. Examples of unexcused absences include:

- Family Vacation
- Babysitting
- Shopping
- Doing errands
- Oversleeping
- Cutting classes
- Job hunting
- Vacation
- Parent's illness

Students who miss 20% of the day will receive an unexcused absence for the full day.

What Happens When A Student Misses Unexcused Days?

