

Dear DCPS students, parents/guardians, and families:

At DC Public Schools (DCPS), we value the health and wellbeing of our students. We know that students who are healthy are better able to come to school and learn. We are pleased to share that DCPS is partnering with local doctors, nurses, and the DC Department of Health on a project to support our students' health and attendance in school.

Through the project -- which is called the **Chronic Absenteeism Reduction Effort** or **CARE** -- parents or guardians can give permission to DCPS to securely share attendance information with their child's doctor(s), nurse(s), and medical office staff. This information will help these healthcare professionals to provide special outreach and medical attention to children that might be missing school and their families.

Why are DCPS and local doctors and nurses partnering on this project?

DCPS and local medical providers share the goal of having physically and mentally healthy children who are at school, every day, ready to learn. For many students with medical conditions such as asthma, allergies, sickle cell anemia, and diabetes, this can be harder. DCPS and local doctors and nurses are partnering to see if we can better support students' health and wellbeing when doctors and nurses know more about school attendance. Ultimately, we hope this will help students improve their academics.

How will this project help my child?

Doctors, nurses, and their staff are able to provide special outreach and medical attention if your child might be missing school. For example, your child's doctor may be able to recommend a new or different medication to help make your child feel better and to better control your child's asthma, allergies, or other condition. The medical care team may also be able to support other common issues for getting to school, such as transportation or child care needs.

What schools are participating?

For the 2018-2019 school year, this CARE project will continue at Bancroft Elementary, Cardozo Education Campus, Columbia Heights Education Campus, H.D. Cooke Elementary, Marie Reed Elementary, and Powell Elementary. These schools were chosen because many students at these schools get their medical care at the same doctors' offices. This allows DCPS to strongly partner with those doctors and nurses.

How do I sign up?

To sign up, please sign the attached consent form and return to your child's school registrar.

How can I learn more?

If you have questions, please speak with your child's school registrar, school nurse, or medical provider. You can also contact the DCPS Health and Wellness team at healthservices.dcps@dc.gov or 202.719.6555. A Frequently Asked Questions document is at <http://dcps.dc.gov/page/health-and-wellness>.

Sincerely,



Diana K. Bruce

Director of Health and Wellness