



STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS Office of Attendance Services

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Fredericksburg, Virginia 22406
Phone: 540-286-8985

Dear SCPS Families:

SCPS continues efforts to ensure that all students fully benefit from their education by attending school regularly. While this looks differently than it ever has, positive school attendance has a huge impact on a student's academic success. Attending school regularly, even in this virtual environment, helps students feel better about school and themselves. It is important that students log into their virtual, live classroom platform daily (Google Meet/Canvas). This allows teachers to accurately report attendance.

As partners in education, families play a key role in school attendance. Families are imperative in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance at school is so very important for success in school and in life.

SCPS realizes there are many reasons students miss school. Some absences are just unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. However, absences add up quickly. Absences of 10% or greater are considered chronic. If your student is out of school, please remember to call the school.

SCPS also realizes that when students miss too much school – regardless of the reason – it can cause them to fall behind academically. Remember that even though a student may complete take-home work, this does not take away an absence. Student success is less likely if the student is experiencing chronic absenteeism or truancy. Even just missing 2 days a month makes a student at risk. Research shows:

- [Students chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade.](#)
- [By 6th grade, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign for students at risk of dropping out of school.](#)
- [Each week of absence per semester in 9th grade lowers the likelihood of graduating by 25%.](#)

SCPS is committed to educating every student to the very best of our ability, and to ensuring students do not fall behind and become discouraged. Please ensure students attend school all day, every day. Here are a few tips to help support regular school attendance:

- Keep a consistent bed time and morning routine. Students thrive with consistency!
- Lay out clothes and pack the backpack/organize supplies the night before.
- Ensure that your student logs into school and completes every session, every day, unless they are truly sick.
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Communicate with your teachers and counselor for advice if your student is feeling anxious about school.
- For more information about changes to SCPS attendance practice for the 2020-2021 school year please see the Office of Attendance Services website.

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Sincerely,

The Office of Attendance Services
Stafford County Public Schools