

STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

31 Stafford Avenue
Stafford, Virginia 22554-7246
Phone: 540-658-6000
www.staffordschools.net



Revised Attendance Policy

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, SCPS will implement new attendance reporting practices to meet compliance with Virginia Compulsory Attendance Law 22.1-254. The Virginia Department of Education has provided new directives for the reporting of student absences from school as follows:

- At **5 unexcused** absences, the school is required to initiate an attendance improvement plan.
- At **6 unexcused** absences, the school is required to have an attendance conference.
- At **7 unexcused** absence, SCPS is required to report whether legal charges were initiated against the student, against the parent, or if legal charges were not initiated because an improvement plan is in place and AND working.

As previously stated, these requirements apply only to **unexcused absences**.

As a school system, we are working to explore and expand more ways for you to report your student's absences. We want to emphasize the importance of sending in notes or using your school's available attendance reporting options to excuse your student's absence. We want to work together to support you and your student and hope you will work with us in quickly identifying which students have attendance problems and need further intervention. Please ensure your student's school has your correct street address, phone number, **and email address** on file. Please ensure you familiarize yourself with the options you have available to communicate with your school about absences. Other attendance procedures will be followed for students with excessive excused absences.

In an effort to reduce unexcused absences, SCPS requests when your student is absent from school, an official notification shall be sent to your student's school explaining the reason why your student was absent from school.

Please review the [SCPS Code of Conduct](#) (pp. 4-11) for information about excused absences.

Thank you for your support in this area,

Stafford County Public Schools