#ReopenStrong

What Will Attendance Look Like for SY20-21?

Parent University

Upcoming Parent University Workshops

September		October	
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Sign up at bit.ly/dcpsparentursvp!

Subtitles, Sous-titres, Subtítulos
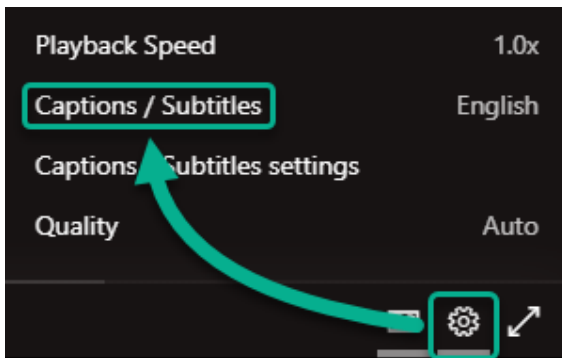
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Welcome to Microsoft Teams

Use the Q&A feature to…

[?]	Ask questions
[i]	Share insights you might have
[👍]	Upvote other questions and comments by pressing the thumbs up button

Ask as **Mr Tinkering**

Ask a question

Ask anonymously   Ask

Community Agreement

Assume best intentions

Go hard on ideas, not on people

Accept non-closure

Meet Our Presenter

Andrea Allen,
Director of Attendance

Office of the Chief
Operating Officer

Our goal for today is to continue to ensure that **every day counts** for our students in 2020-2021.

EVERY STUDENT.
EVERY SCHOOL.
EVERY DAY.

Agenda

➤ Key Metrics & Terms

Why Does Attendance Matter?

Virtual Attendance Procedures & Policies

Attendance Protocol

Supports & Resources

Q&A Session

Key Attendance Metrics

In-Seat Attendance Rate	Truancy Rate	Chronic Absence Rate
• The % of days attended (out of days enrolled) by a student or group of students. • This includes both **excused** and **unexcused** absences.	• The % of all <u>compulsory age</u> students ever enrolled who accrued 10 or more **unexcused absences** in a given school year. • It signals the potential need for legal interventions under District of Columbia's compulsory education laws.	• The % of <u>all students</u> who have missed 10% or more of the school year for any reason; **excused or unexcused** absences are included. • It is an indication that a student is academically at risk due to missing too much school.

Agenda

Key Metrics & Terms

➢ Why Does Attendance Matter?

Virtual Attendance Procedures & Policies

Attendance Protocol
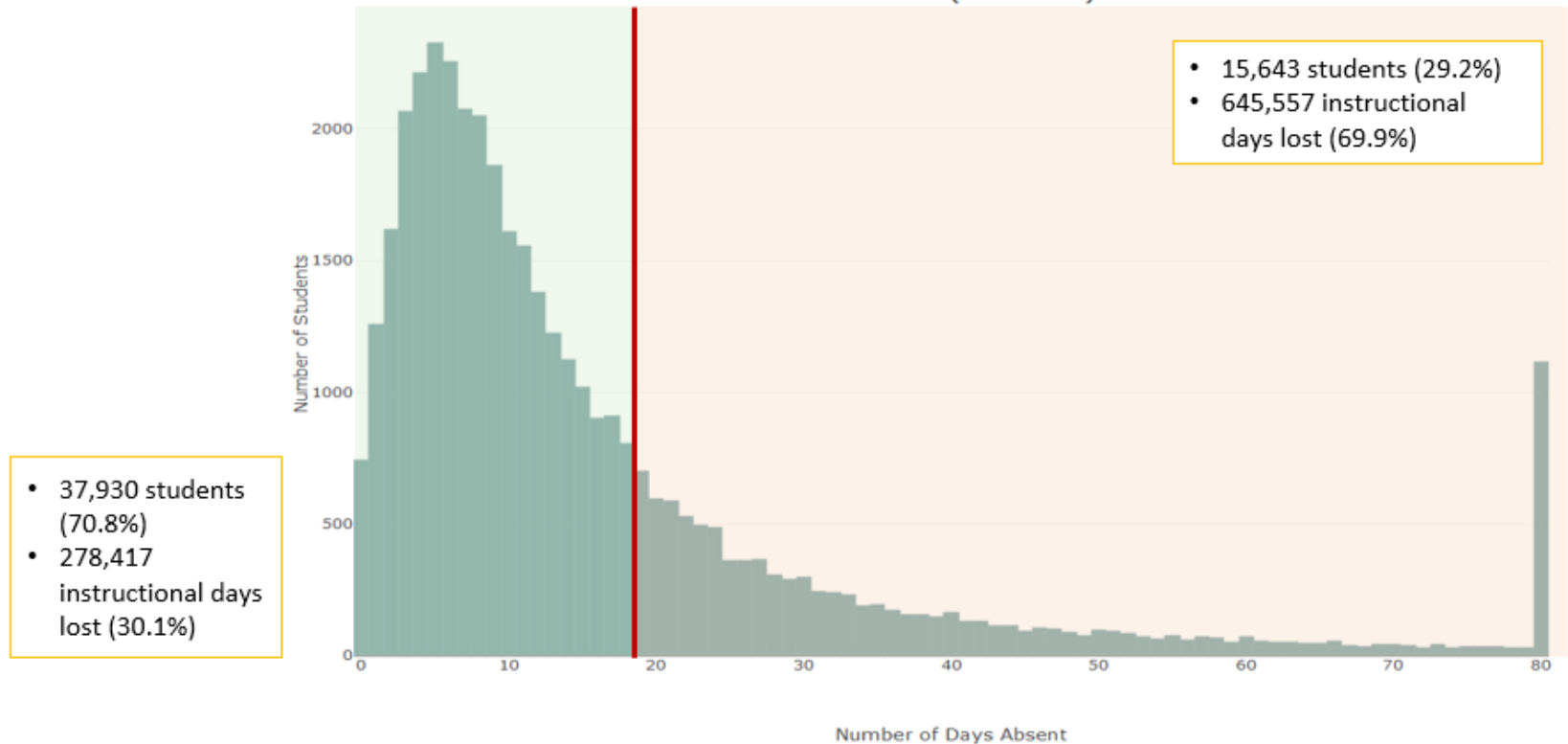
Supports & Resources

Q&A Session

Attendance: Why **Does** It Matter?

- Academic risks
- Studies show that **poor attendance in Pre-K can predict chronic absenteeism** in later grades.
- Kindergarten and first grade attendance impact **reading levels** at the end of third grade.
- By middle and high school, chronic absence is a **leading warning sign that a student will drop out.**
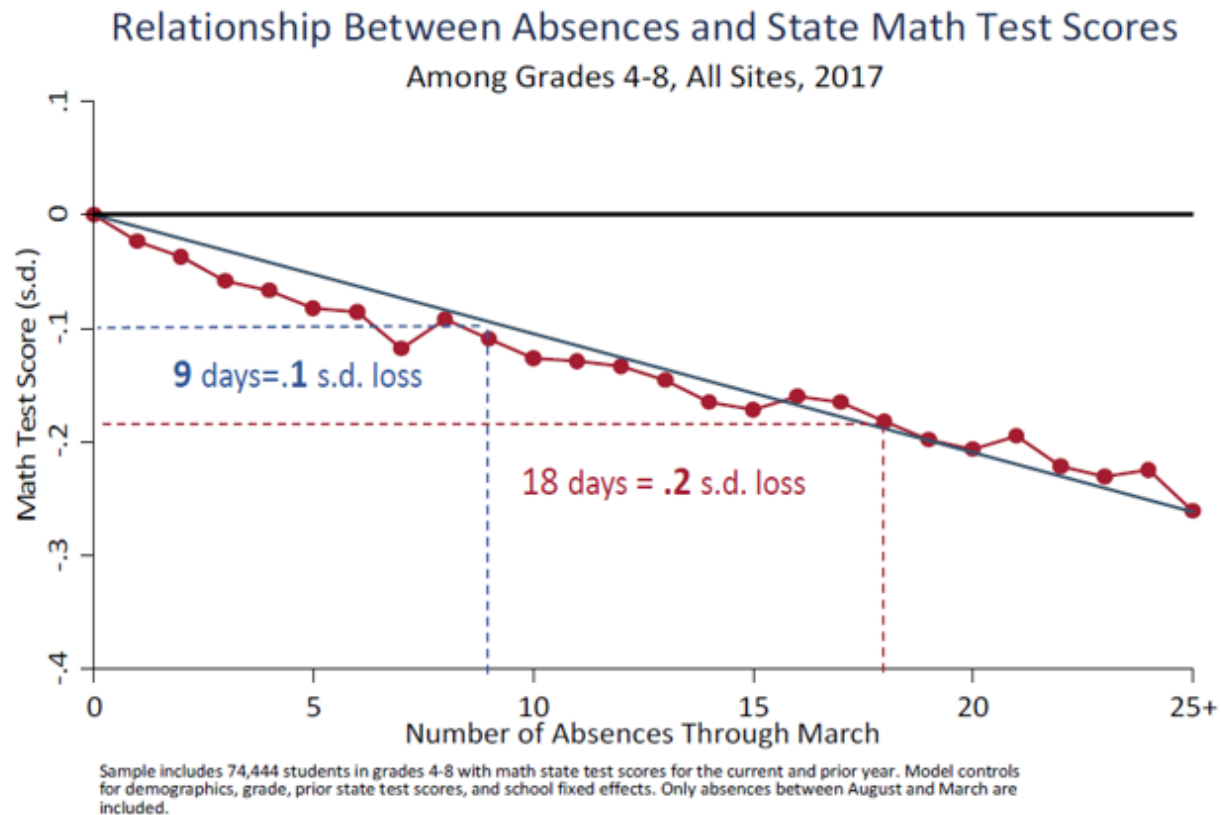
Attendance: Why **Does** It Matter?

Distribution of Days Absent (All Schools) at DCPS
2016-2017 (Full Year)

- 15,643 students (29.2%)
- 645,557 instructional days lost (69.9%)

- 37,930 students (70.8%)
- 278,417 instructional days lost (30.1%)

DCPS students lost over 900,000 instructional days to absences. Chronically absent students accounted for 70% of all days lost.

Attendance: Why **Does** It Matter?

Relationship Between Absences and State Math Test Scores
Among Grades 4-8, All Sites, 2017

9 days=.1 s.d. loss

18 days = .2 s.d. loss

Sample includes 74,444 students in grades 4-8 with math state test scores for the current and prior year. Model controls for demographics, grade, prior state test scores, and school fixed effects. Only absences between August and March are included.

High counts of absences are directly correlated to lower student achievement.

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Virtual Attendance Procedures & Policies

Due to the COVID-19 public health crisis, DCPS planned for a range of scenarios, including a combination of virtual and in-person (hybrid model), for the fall.

As we plan for both in-person and distance learning, we are working together to ensure **every student can learn every day.**

Virtual Attendance Procedures & Policies

For **In-Person Instruction**, class and course attendance are recorded in Aspen. Considerations would include ensuring students have time to enter the building safely.

For **Virtual Instruction**, attendance will be recorded based on a student logging into Canvas each day between 6:00 am and 11:59 pm. Canvas participation will transfer to a student's Aspen attendance record on a daily basis.

Aspen is still the official system of record for student attendance.

Families of Secondary Students can View Attendance in the Parent Portal

How will student attendance be recorded during virtual learning?

Attendance will be recorded based on the student activity in **Canvas** each school day between 6:00 am and 11:59 pm. Any activity within Canvas will automatically transfer to Aspen and translate into attendance for that day.

Activity within Canvas includes logging into Canvas, clicking on the link for the day's activities, clicking on a Teams meeting link, opening a course, or working on an assignment in ClassNotebook within Canvas.

How to Log Into Canvas

What if students are experiencing technology issues at home and cannot log into Canvas?

If students do not have access to technology or are having internet connectivity issues, the student or their parent/guardian are expected to call a designated attendance point of contact (POC) at each school to report the issues, and what the student will be working on that day. The school POC will log the student's connection in Aspen on their behalf for the day.

Is attendance mandatory during virtual learning?

Yes, virtual instruction days are **compulsory**, and daily attendance will be **required**.

Will students be considered absent for the day if they do not participate in synchronous instruction?

No. While it is important that students are engaging with their teacher during live instruction, attendance will not be taken at the course level. Students' daily attendance expectation is that they log into Canvas at least once a day. If this requirement is met, students will not be considered absent.

What absences are considered excused…

Except for the addition of required immunization related attendance codes, DCPS legal excuse reasons remain the same as the 19-20 School Year (SY) and can be found in the DCPS Attendance and Truancy Policy (an updated version for the 20-21 SY will be made available prior to the start of school).

…and how should excuse note documentation be submitted to the school?

During the period of virtual learning, excuse notes may be submitted electronically to the students' attendance POC. If a family is unable to submit documentation electronically due to challenges with technology, the family should contact the school attendance POC and maintain a copy of the documentation for record reconciliation when health conditions allow.

Excused Absences

Excused absences are absences that occur when students are absent with a valid excuse and parental approval. Excused absences include:

- Student **illness** *(a doctor's note or other documentation is required if a student is absent for 5+ days within a term);*
- **Death** in the student's immediate family;
- Necessity for a student to attend a judicial proceeding/**court-ordered activity** as a party to the action or under subpoena
- Observance of a **religious holiday**;
- **Illness of a child** (for parenting students; doctor's note required for 5+ within a term)
- Medical/dental **appointment** for the student
- Temporary school closings due to weather, unsafe conditions or other emergencies;
- Failure of DC to provide transportation where legally responsible;
- Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
- Absences to allow a student to visit a parent in the military, immediately before, during, or after deployment
- Absences of expectant/parenting students for a time period specified by their doctor & any accommodations as mandated by law
- **Emergency circumstances approved by DCPS**
- **Religious event or celebration** outside of a religious holiday (up to 5 total days/year)
- **School visits** for K-8 students (1 day/year)
- **College visits** for 9-12 students (3 days/year)

Questions?

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What policies have changed to accommodate virtual learning?

Grading & Retention

- Course failure will not be associated to attendance

Attendance Protocol Requirements

- No 3-day letter, addition of wellness check process at 3 days, change to process at 20 consecutive unexcused absences

Note Submission Requirements

- Notes may be submitted electronically. Families who are unable to do so may contact the school, and submit the note when health conditions allow.

Immunization

- Students will not be allowed to attend school without proper vaccinations after 20 days. After this, students will accrue unexcused absences. This new policy will not apply until in-person school is required.

80/20 Rule

- Student attendance will not be based on period/course level attendance during virtual learning

DCPS Attendance Protocol

3 absences	• Wellness Check phone call to identify any technical barriers or other challenges
5 unexcused absences	• Send 5-day Universal letter to parent. • School will hold a Student Support Team (SST) meeting to identify and offer solutions to attendance barriers
7 unexcused absences	• Send 7-day MPD warning letter to parent
10 unexcused absences	• Send 10-day Universal letter to parent • Submit referral to CFSA* (ages 5-13)
15 unexcused absences	• Submit referral to Court Social Services (CSS)* for students ages 14-17
20 consecutive unexcused absences	• Conduct Wellness Check (see 3 Absences) and consult with attendance specialist before making a withdrawal determination

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Resources & Supports

- If you have questions or need additional supports, please reach out to your school, and ask to be connected with your school's Attendance POC.

- For help logging into Canvas, or troubleshooting technology issues, visit https://dcpsreopenstrong.com/resources/technology/

- To help parents and caregivers have a successful start to the school year, download our new Family Guide to Learning at Home.

Questions?

Thank you!

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Wrapping Up

- Visit dcpsreopenstrong.com to access additional resources!

- Let us know how we did: Visit bit.ly/parentueval19 for a quick survey.

- For additional questions or ideas email ParentU@k12.dc.gov.