



Attending school every day is the best way for students to grow their academic and social-emotional skills. School attendance is also required by law for children ages 5-18. The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is adopting several changes to District attendance policies for the 2022-23 school year to encourage students to attend school every day. OSSE prepared this one-pager summarizing the key changes to help you and your child prepare for the upcoming school year.

UPDATES FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

- **The 60/40 Rule:** A student will now be considered present for days they are present for at least 60 percent of the school day. Previously, students needed to be present for 80 percent of the day. This change should encourage students to attend school even when they are significantly late.
- **Student Support Team (SST) Requirements:** SSTs, usually comprised of a teacher, a support staff member like a social worker and a school administrator, are tasked with identifying barriers to attendance and creating an action plan to connect students and families with the resources they need to improve school attendance.
 - After five full-day, unexcused absences in a single marking period (quarter, trimester, or semester), the student must be referred to the SST for an initial parent meeting and plan development.
 - After 10 full-day, unexcused absences in one school year, the SST must report the absences to the school administrator and develop a plan for immediate intervention.
- **Attendance Policy Requirements for Virtual Schools:** Approved schools offering distance learning on a routine, full-time basis must share their attendance policy in writing with families. When students have real-time classes, teachers are required to see the student on camera for the student to be marked present. For asynchronous classes where the student completes work without live directions from a teacher, students will need to complete an assignment to be marked present. Please note that parents are legally responsible for proper supervision of students during distance learning.
- **Medical Certification:** The medical certification process that required schools to provide distance learning to students who had personal or family medical issues that put them at increased risk to severe disease from coronavirus (COVID-19) has expired and is no longer available. Safe and effective vaccines are now widely available for all students and families.
- **Student Immunizations (No Shots, No School):** As prior to the pandemic, all students in DC schools, including private schools, must be fully compliant with required vaccinations to attend school. While this isn't new, there are new requirements related to COVID-19 vaccinations. Beginning in the 2022-23 school year, all students age 12 and older must receive the COVID-19 vaccination unless exempted. For more information about student immunizations, please reference this [flyer](#).

If you have questions about these changes to the attendance rules, please reach out to your child's school.