

# WHEN DO ABSENCES BECOME A PROBLEM?

For every day your child is absent from school, **over 6 hours** of instructional time is lost.

## On Track

9 or fewer days



0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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## At Risk

10 to 17 days

10	12	12	13	14	15	16	17
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## Off Track

18 or more days



18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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# MORE INFORMATION



Scan the QR Code to access the district calendar or visit [spps.org/calendar](https://spps.org/calendar).

School Attendance Matters (SAM)  
Office of School Support

651-767-8165

[spps.org/attendance](https://spps.org/attendance)

Contact your school for more information or email **Janine Huyer-DeVries** at [janine.huyer-devries@spps.org](mailto:janine.huyer-devries@spps.org) (for students under 12 years old).



*The information in this brochure has been adapted from Attendance Works' website, [Attendanceworks.org](https://Attendanceworks.org).*

# SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Office of School Support  
651-767-8165 • [spps.org/attendance](https://spps.org/attendance)

# ATTENDANCE LAW

Once enrolled in a public school, a child 5 to 17 years old must receive instruction unless the child has graduated.

## EXCUSED ABSENCES

- ✓ **Illness** (school may ask for a medical note if there are 3 or more illness days in a row, or excessive illnesses)
- ✓ **Religious Holidays**
- ✓ **Family Emergencies**
- ✓ **Medical/ Mental Health/ Dental Appointments**  
(when possible, schedule outside of the school day and attend school before or after appointment)

## UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- ✗ Travel/Vacation
- ✗ Tired from work/travel
- ✗ Weather: Too Hot/Cold
- ✗ Babysitting
- ✗ Car Trouble
- ✗ Missed Bus
- ✗ Overslept
- ✗ Not Immunized
- ✗ Needed at Home











# DID YOU KNOW?

Starting in Preschool and Kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.

Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to:

- Gain early reading and math skills
- Build relationships
- Develop good attendance habits

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

-  Communicate with the school regarding all absences.
-  Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
-  Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
-  Make sure your child has the required shots.
-  Introduce your children to their teachers and classmates before school starts.
-  Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, friend or another parent.
-  Try to schedule doctor, dental, therapy appointments and extended trips when school is not in session.
-  If your child seems anxious about going to school or showing signs of anxiety, talk to teachers, school counselors, school social workers, and other parents for advice on how to support your child.
-  Keep your contact information up to date; phone numbers, address, email.
-  If you need resources, you can reach out to teachers, school counselors, school social workers, or school nurse for assistance.