

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.

School Attendance Matters (SAM)
Office of School Support

 651-767-8164

 spps.org/attendance

Contact your school for more information or email **Lisa Lyons** at lisa.lyons@spps.org (for students over 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
651-767-8164 • 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?

- Missing less than nine days of school each year helps students to stay engaged, experience success in their schoolwork and keep on track to graduate on time.
- Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with schoolwork, school anxiety, struggling with a peer or facing some other difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Know the school's attendance policy. Check on your student's attendance to be sure absences are not adding up.

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day and every class on time.
- Help your student maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework, getting a good night's sleep, and maintaining a regular nighttime and morning routine during the school week.
- Try not to schedule medical, mental health or dental appointments during the school day.
- Help your student stay engaged.
- If they're too ill to attend school and must stay home, make sure to contact their school to report the absence.
- When they must miss school, encourage them to ask teachers for resources and materials to make up for the missed learning time.
- Monitor your student's academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors when necessary.
- Be sure to keep your contact information updated: phone number(s), email, and household addresses
- Encourage your student to join meaningful after-school, prosocial activities: sports, clubs, or after school programs.
- Notice and support your student if they are showing signs of anxiety. In many SPPS secondary schools there are supportive staff and programs available. You may learn more by contacting a school counselor, social worker, talk to your student's teacher (s), administrators, or other school support staff.