

Excused Absences

The following is a list of absences that each school must accept as excused:

- Medical or dental appointments for the student;
- Illness or other bona fide medical cause experienced by the student (doctor's note is required for a student absent 5 or more days);
- Exclusion, by direction of the authorities of the District of Columbia, due to quarantine, contagious disease, infection, infestation, or other condition requiring separation from other students for medical or health reasons;
- Death in the student's immediate family;

- Observance of a religious holiday (up to 5 cumulative days);
- School visits for elementary and middle school students (one day);
- College visits for high school students (up to 3 cumulative days);
- "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day";
- Employment or other volunteer work approved by the school, provided that the student is seventeen (17) years of age, and provided further that any excused absences under this paragraph shall not adversely impact the student's academic performance or timely graduation;

- Necessity for a student to attend judiciary or administrative proceedings as a party to the action or under subpoena;
- Lawful suspension or exclusion from school by school authorities;

- Temporary closing of facilities or suspension of classes due to severe weather, official activities, holidays, malfunctioning equipment, unsafe or unsanitary conditions, or other condition(s) or emergency requiring a school closing or suspension of classes;
- Failure of the District of Columbia to provide transportation in cases where the District of Columbia has a legal responsibility for the transportation of the student;
- Medical or dental appointments for the student;
- Illness of a child for parenting students (doctor's note is required for a student absent 5 or more days);

- An emergency or other set of circumstances approved by an LEA, independent, private or parochial school (in accordance with policies distributed to parents and guardians).

An education institution can:

1. add to this list and
2. require a written statement to verify the excuse. The school can require the written statement before or after the absence.

For more information, visit <https://attendance.dc.gov/>.