

Why Attendance Matters in Denver Public Schools

ATTENDING DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- All children in Colorado must attend school, generally from age 4 to 18.
- DPS students attend school Monday through Friday.
- DPS school years begin in August and end in May or June.
- **When your child misses school, you must notify the school's front office.**
- Districtwide school year calendars are available at dpsk12.org/page/calendars. Schools may also have their own calendars, which can be found on the school's website or by asking the front office staff.

Students must attend a minimum number of hours of school in order to comply with Colorado School Attendance Law – C.R.S. 22-33-101 et seq. These minimum requirements are: **968 hours in elementary school** and **1,056 hours in middle and high school**.

A student who misses 10% (two days per month) or more of the time enrolled in school is considered chronically absent (this can include late arrivals and early pick-ups from school.) Chronic absence counts all excused and unexcused absences and suspensions. Visit dpsk12.org/page/attendance for more information.

Keep your child home or seek care if they:

- Have a fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher.
- Have vomited two or more times in the last 24 hours.
- Have a persistent cough, difficulty breathing or trouble catching their breath or if they develop a fever with the cough.
- Have a rash with blisters that are draining, are painful, look like bruises and/or if a fever develops.
- Have eye swelling, eye pain, trouble seeing or an eye injury.
- Have a sore throat causing drooling, trouble swallowing or a fever and/or rash.

Send your child to school even if they:*

- Have a mild cold, which may include a runny nose and/or cough.
- Have eye drainage without fever, eye pain or eyelid redness.
- Have a mild stomach ache.
- Have a mild rash with no other symptoms.
- Have head lice. Though they are annoying and should be treated, lice are not a reason to exclude a child from school.
- Haven't had a fever overnight and they have not taken fever-reducing medicine during that time.

*If you don't know whether to send your child to school or have specific concerns regarding your child's health, contact your child's health-care provider, a local urgent care or the school nurse.