FAMILY ATTENDANCE TOOLKIT

Because great days start with you.
Great days start with you!

Getting your child to school every day, on time can be a challenge. But it’s one of the most important ways you can help them succeed.

**CHILDREN WHO ATTEND SCHOOL REGULARLY ARE MORE LIKELY TO:**

- Read at grade level
- Pass math assessments
- Feel like part of the school community
- Build lasting, meaningful friendships
- Graduate high school

**HOW FAMILIES CAN BOOST SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

**Champion your child's school success.**
Let them know you care about school because when you're excited, they are too. Try tracking and celebrating weekly attendance goals.

**Make a backup plan for getting to school on time.**
It’s so important to have people in your life who have your back. Ask family, friends, or neighbors to be your school drop-off back up. And be theirs too.

**Share your current contact information with your school.**
We’re here to help. Stay connected so we can share attendance updates, answer your questions, and connect you to resources.
6 Things to Remember About Our ATTENDANCE POLICY

- All absences require an excuse note. No matter the reason.
- You have 3 days to send an excuse note to school after your child is absent.
- Arriving late or leaving early hurts your child’s school performance and attendance record.
- Your child is considered truant when they have 3 or more unexcused absences.
- We’re here to help. If you have questions or challenges getting to school on time, reach out.
- You can view the District’s full attendance policy online.

[philasd.org/studentrights/programsservices/attendance-truancy]
Let’s celebrate weekly attendance. Showing up adds up. Fill in a star each week you make it to school every day, on time!

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<th>Month</th>
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Dream big! Share your talents! We got this!
I wake up at

I brush my teeth for

My favorite way to say goodbye is

I get to school by

Write your family’s plan for a great morning.
I’m an attendance hero.

I used my super speed to get to school on time.

I have the power to learn and grow strong.

I mastered my family’s mighty morning routine!
ABSENCE EXCUSE NOTE

STUDENT NAME
CLASSROOM
DATE(S) ABSENT

PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

Don’t forget, you have 3 days from your child’s absence to submit an excuse note to their school. Also, you will need to submit a doctor’s note if your child is absent for 3 or more days in a row.
The best attendance tips come from family and friends.

We all know that attendance is important, but sometimes we could use a little reminder. Share these graphics on social media and share what works for your family.

SCAN OR VISIT readby4th.org/initiatives - family/attendance- toolkit
YOUR SCHOOL NURSE IS HERE FOR YOU.

We want to make sure your child is healthy, thriving, and ready to learn.

Student Health Services
studenthealth@philasd.org
215-400-4920
philasd.org/studenthealth

YOU CAN TALK TO YOUR SCHOOL NURSE ABOUT:

- If your child is too sick to come to school
- Health records and required vaccines
- Chronic health conditions and medical needs
- How to access affordable healthcare
- The latest updates to the District’s health policy
If your family is facing challenges that make it hard to get to school, check out these resources or reach out to your school for support.

**FAMILY SUPPORT**

DHS Family Empowerment Services (FES)  
215-683-4000  
phila.gov/programs/family-empowerment-services-fes  
Case management services, support with health, financial, heating, electrical, and transportation.

**CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE**

The Early Learning Resource Center  
215-382-4762  
philadelphiachildcare.org  
Assistance paying for childcare and other early childhood supports.

**MULTILINGUAL + IMMIGRANT**

Office of Multilingual Family Support  
215-400-4180  
philasd.org/face/multilingual  
Bilingual Counseling Assistants who speak more than 30 languages.

Nationalities Services Center  
215-893-8400  
nationalitiesservice.org  
Free and low-cost translation and interpretation services.

**HEALTH + WELLNESS**

**Physical Health**

Talk with your school’s nurse if you're not sure if your child is too sick for school.

City Health Centers  
Call 311  
phila.gov/services/mental-physical-health/city-health-centers  
Affordable health services. Small fee based on income if uninsured.

Student Health Services  
215-400-4920  
philasd.org/studenthealth  
District’s latest health policy information.

**Mental Health & Drug and Alcohol Support**

Network of Care  
philadelphia.pa.networkofcare.org/mh  
Mental health and behavioral counseling for children and families.

Community Behavioral Health  
215-413-3100  
215-686-4420 (crisis hotline)  
dbhids.org/community-behavioral-health  
Mental health and substance abuse treatment.

**INTERNET**

PHL ConnectED  
Call 211  
phila.gov/programs/phlconnected  
Free internet access for pre-K-12 families through summer 2022.
FOOD + NUTRITION

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
215-430-0556
Benefits to buy food at supermarkets, corner stores, and most farmers’ markets.

Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
1-800-743-3300
wicprograms.org/ci/pa-philadelphia
New moms, pregnant women, and children under 5 can receive food, health screenings, and nutrition counseling.

The Coalition Against Hunger
215-430-0556 (SNAP hotline)
hungercoalition.org
Get connected to food pantries across the city and help securing SNAP benefits.

EMERGENCY FUNDS + FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Education for Children & Youth Experiencing Homelessness
philasd.org/homeless/
programsservices/emergency-funding
Emergency funds may be available to assist in unexpected crises.

Cradles to Crayons Family Assistance
215-731-7140
cradlestocrayons.org/philadelphia/family-assistance
Help getting family essentials and more.

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare
800-692-7462
Cash, medical, and energy assistance.

EMERGENCY HOUSING

Office of Homeless Services
215-686-7177 (Homeless Prevention Hotline)
philadelphiaofficeofhomelessservices.org
Emergency housing, case management, and support finding long-term housing.

Office of Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness
215-400-4830, Option 4
philasd.org/homeless
Help with uniforms, coats, tutoring, transportation, and emergency funding.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Women Against Abuse
1-866-723-3014 (24-hour hotline)
215-386-1280
womenagainstabuse.org
Support, counseling, safety planning, and shelter.

WOAR (Women Organized Against Rape)
215-985-3333 (24-hour hotline)
woar.org
Support, trauma-informed therapy, service guidance.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Philadelphia Legal Assistance
215-981-3800
philalegal.org
Legal advice and referrals for clients with financial constraints.