

# Dowling Attendance Info

## Dowling School Attendance

Please report EACH absence by calling the Dowling Attendance Line: (612) 668-9814 or emailing [MPS.Dowling@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:MPS.Dowling@mpls.k12.mn.us)

*Minneapolis Public Schools recognizes that daily attendance is critical to academic achievement. It is our goal to work with students, families, and communities to support regular school attendance and improve academic achievement.*

*Families are the most powerful partners we have in educating students and absences from school are concerning. Students who miss just one or two days of school each month can easily fall behind in learning. Absences add up quickly and we need your help. Being absent and missing lessons can lead to difficulty at school. Students who miss too many days of school are more likely to:*

- Experience challenges with learning and not pass their courses.*
- Miss opportunities to build relationships with other students and teachers.*
- Not finish school on time and are at higher risk for not graduating.*

*We know that good attendance plays a critical role in learning and achievement. We want to work with you to ensure your child's success. Our school staff is available to assist you and your child with support, resources, and developing plans for achievement.*

## It's the Law!

Minnesota law states that all students are required to attend school from age 7, or when they enter kindergarten (whichever comes first) until they are 18 years old. A student's failure to attend school may lead to intervention for the parents/guardians and the student.

## What Are Excused Absences?

### ***Health Care Appointments***

Whenever possible, please schedule health care appointments (i.e. medical, mental

health, dental, etc.) before and after school. If you must schedule an appointment during school, the appointment will be excused upon receiving a written note from the health care provider.

### ***Illness***

Students are allowed up to 10 total absences a year, 6 days consecutive, due to illness. Additional absences due to illness may be excused only if you have developed a plan with the school nurse or you provide a written note from your child's health care provider.

Because your child's health is important to us, school staff can help your child if you do not have health insurance or if you cannot afford to see a health care provider. Please contact the school if you need assistance.

### ***School Bus Problems***

If your child misses school because the bus was late or did not show up at the bus stop, you must report this to the school that morning.

### ***Religious Holidays/Cultural Observances***

If your child will be gone due to a religious holiday or cultural observance, you must notify the school in advance.

### ***Funeral***

Students may be gone up to 4 days a year because of a funeral. If your child will be gone more than 4 days, please connect with a teacher, social worker, or principal for additional excused time.

### ***Family Emergency***

Students may be gone up to 3 days a year because of a family emergency. If your child will be gone more than 3 days, please connect with a teacher, social worker, or principal for additional excused time.

### ***Family Activity***

A student may be gone up to 5 days from school for a pre-approved family activity. To get pre-approval from the school, you must do the following:

- At least 10 days before leaving, request permission from the school for your child to be gone for a family activity.
- Before leaving, get your child's homework and agree that your child will finish the homework.

- Make sure that your child will not be gone for important tests like the MCA, NALT, or MBST.
- Before leaving, get written approval from the principal.
- [Family Activity Form- please print a copy \(digital form coming soon\)](#)

### ***Tardies/Late Arrivals***

It is our pleasure to greet each student in the morning and assist them in having a morning meal and social time with their peers before the start of their learning day. This is an important first step in starting the day off well.

On-time arrival is an essential skill that helps students throughout life. When students arrive late, they often feel it is difficult to adjust in the classroom when learning has started without them.

Regular on-time school arrival provides your child the opportunity to receive the best education possible and, in some cases, services specifically designed for your child (reading/math support, physical/occupational therapy, speech/language therapy, etc.). It is important for you to know that on-time arrival and daily attendance impacts the ability of your child to learn and thrive in the school environment.