



School Attendance Matters!

Regular attendance is key to your child's academic success and social development.
Every Day Counts!



Why attendance matters?

- Boosts Learning
- Builds friendships and social skills
- Prepares for future success

Three Key Areas Where Students Improve Academically When They Attend School:

- **Reading & Writing Skills** by exposing students to structured literacy programs, diverse reading materials, and writing tasks, enhancing vocabulary, comprehension, and communication.
- **Math Proficiency** ACPS provides systematic math instruction, building foundational skills and progressing to complex problem-solving techniques.
- **Critical Thinking & Problem Solving** through activities, discussions, and projects, challenging students to analyze information, think creatively, and solve real-world problems.

What is Chronic Absenteeism?

- **Definition:** Missing 10% or more of the academic year for any reason, including excused absences, unexcused absences, and suspension.
- **Impact:** Based on a 180-day school year, this is approximately 18 days per year or 2-3 days per month.
- **Consequences:** Chronic absenteeism harms all students because the percentage of chronically absent classmates predicts low reading and math achievement for all students.

Please do your best to ensure your child is at school every day!

#ACPSattendance matters #ACPSeverydaycounts



[ACPS Attendance
Matters Website](#)



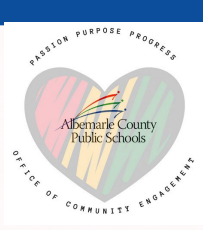
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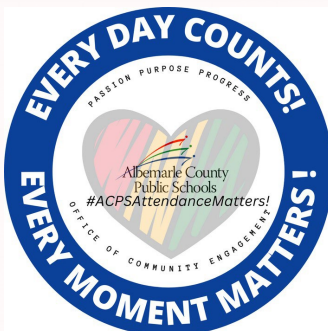


Get Ready for the 2025-2026 School Year!
School will be starting soon. These tips can help your children look forward to attending school every day.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in elementary school, too many absences can result in students falling behind in school.
- Being late to school can lead to poor attendance.
- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help students catch up.
- Frequent absences can be a sign that students are bored, struggling with schoolwork, dealing with a bully, 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.
- Code of Virginia requires all school age children to be adequately immunized. ACPS requires immunization records upon school registration.



WHAT YOU CAN DO.....

- Establish a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Prepare clothes and backpack the night before.
- Keep students healthy and make sure they have the required shots.
- Attend Open House & Back to School Events to get to know the administration, teachers, staff, and community.
- Stay informed about what is happening in your student's class/school by attending Family Academic Events (i.e. Elementary-Math, Reading, Multicultural, Content/Social Emotional Learning, and Fall & Spring Conferences).
- Know the school's attendance policy guidelines, incentives, & impacts of excessive absences.
- Have a backup plan (i.e. relative, neighbor, another parent) for transporting students to and from school.
- Schedule non-urgent medical appointments and extended trips when school is not in session.
- If your student is anxious about school, talk with teachers, school counselors, other parents, and community agencies to get advice about how to make your student feel more comfortable.
- Consult with the school nurse if you are concerned that your student may have a contagious illness.
- If your student must stay home due to illness, call the school or send a note with your student explaining the absence on their return to school.

Immunization Information updated 09/2024:

School-required vaccines include: Dtap, Tdap, HPV, HepB, HepA, Polio, MMR, Varicella, and Meningococcal. Code of Virginia requires schools to collect student immunization records or exemption forms.