

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION:

All students enrolled in the Dothan City School System are required to be in continuous attendance and abide by the policies governing attendance as outlined by the State of Alabama and the local Board of Education. Alabama Legislative Act 93-972 requires a parent/guardian to be responsible for enrolling their children in school, ensuring that they attend school regularly, and requiring that they conduct themselves properly while in school. Based on the mandated 174 days school calendar, it is imperative that all Dothan City Schools students meet the required hours for instruction. Therefore, the following start and end times will be enforced at all schools.

Elementary:

Start at 8:00 a.m. –End at 3:00 p.m.

Middle:

Start at 8:00 a.m. –End at 3:00 p.m.

High:

Start at 7:55 a.m. –End at 3:15 p.m.

Parents are encouraged to make medical and dental appointments outside of school hours. Late check-ins and early check-outs are discouraged because of the instructional time that the student will miss. However, if appointments are scheduled during the school day, parents should try to give the school advanced notice. Any student leaving school during the school day must check out in the Office of the Principal. A written excuse from the doctor or dentist should be brought to the office when the student checks in during the school day, or on the first day the student returns to school. Students arriving late or picked up early will be considered unexcused if a doctor's excuse is not submitted. Students who have appointments scheduled during the school day will not be excused for a whole day of attendance (example: student has a 10:00 am dentist appointment and does not come to school for the entire day). In instances like this, the student should come to school, check out before the appointment, and check back in after the appointment for the remainder of the day. Students receiving special education services must be in attendance the length of the regular school term and school day unless the IEP Team specifies a different length of time based on the individual needs of the child.

An absence may be excused by the principal for the following reasons:

- pupil is too ill to attend school,
- inclement weather which would be dangerous to the life or health of the child if he attends school,
- legal quarantine,
- death in the immediate family,
- emergency condition as determined by the superintendent or principal, or
- student excused by the principal for attendance at special events, based on Parent/Guardian request, shall be considered absent and excused but shall not be considered to be perfect in attendance. Such approval must be based on a written request submitted and approved in advance by the principal

ILLNESS AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:

Some illnesses that require exclusion from school:

~Chickenpox~Influenza~Pink eye~Strep throat~Impetigo~Head lice~MRSA

When should your child stay at home?

Below are some helpful guidelines which along with your doctor's advice will help you make that decision:

1. Fever 100 degrees or higher, vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours. Must be free of fever, diarrhea or vomiting for 24 hours before returning to school.
2. Persistent cough or runny nose with thick discolored nasal drainage should be evaluated by the doctor.
3. Rashes should be evaluated by the doctor. Medical note is required when returning to school.
4. Red or pink, itchy eyes with crusty green/yellow drainage- may return 24 hours after antibiotic treatment is started.
5. Open sores with drainage should be evaluated by the doctor. Medical note is required when returning to school. Sores should be covered.
6. Ringworm- may attend school after treatment. Cover infected area. When present on the scalp, it should be evaluated by the doctor. Medical notes are required when returning to school.
7. Head lice- To help prevent further outbreaks, please let school know if your child has lice. This will allow the nurse to check other students that have close contact with your child. We have a "No Nit" policy - ALL NITS must be removed before returning to class. Parent should accompany their child when returning to school.
7. Chickenpox- may return to school when the blisters are dried or scabbed over. (5-10 days)

It is important for the health of all students and staff that your child not be at school when sick. However, if you have any concerns about your child's illness Always contact your doctor