

## 2023-2024 Attendance Information and Resources

Research is clear that showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic and social success, starting from pre-kindergarten and continuing through high school.

- Missing 10% (or about 18 days of a school year or 2 a month) can drastically affect a student's academic success at each grade level.
- By the 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that can indicate if a student is at risk for dropping out of high school.
- In the 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

Please help us support a culture of showing up to school every day!

Please review Policy 9010: <https://policy.hcpss.org/9000/9010/>

If your student is absent or will be absent, please contact us at the following email address to explain the reason: [EESabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:EESabsence@hcpss.org). In the email please include the following information:

- Student First and Last Name
- Grade
- Reason for absence (e.g., illness, bereavement, observance of a religious holiday, lack of transportation)

### Discretionary Days

HCPSS students are granted 3 days a year to use at their discretion for scheduled interviews with prospective employers, visits to post-secondary institutions, family trips, civic engagement, and other special events.

- Such absences may not occur during exam or state-mandated testing periods unless authorized by the principal/designee.
- A written request for such absences to be lawful/excused should be submitted at least **one week** in advance to the principal/designee. Please download the PDF fillable [Discretionary Absence Form](#) and email it to [EESabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:EESabsence@hcpss.org). The form is also available in [Chinese](#), [Korean](#), and [Spanish](#)

- If you are requesting a day for a religious holiday not identified by the Howard County Public School System school calendar, please download the PDF fillable [Religious Obligation Form](#) and email it to [\[redacted\]absence@hcpss.org](#).

With the collaborative effort of HCPSS parents, staff and students, we are confident that all students can have successful attendance. This will improve student success in school and in future life!