

April-June 2021

FPS Middle Level Handbook Updates

Return to Full and In-Person-April 12, 2021



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ATTENDANCE

Expectations

Attending class regularly, completing assignments, and participating in class are directly related to success in school. There is no way to duplicate the in-person or remote learning experience after a student has been absent. The fundamental responsibility for regular attendance during the in-person and remote instructional models lies with the student and the parents/guardians.

The Franklin Public Schools expects parents/guardians to make every reasonable effort to have their children attend school every day as expectations remain consistent with district protocols for in-person and remote learning. Hybrid instruction is no longer a recognized instructional model for students as of April 12, 2021.

Chronic absenteeism is defined by absences that exceed 10% of the school year. For example, there will be 45 school days remaining from April 12 to June 22, 2021 (projected last day of school). Ten percent of 45 remaining days equals 4.5 days, which allows for 5 absences before a pattern of absenteeism develops. In each circumstance, the school administration will notify families to discuss reasons for absences, determine appropriate supports, and a course of action. **The administration will review documented absences (i.e. school visits, healthcare appointments, long-term health complications, court appearance, etc.) on an individual basis to determine the appropriate instructional model.**

Key Terms

Present In-person students who arrive on time and attend school in-person (applies to students who chose the in-person instructional model).	Absent In-person students who do not attend school in-person or who follow the travel advisory and are quarantined due to a vacation or out-of-state travel.
Virtual Present - Fully remote students who attend class' Google Meets throughout the day. (applies to students who chose remote instructional model). - OR - In-person students required to temporarily quarantine by the District who attend their class' Google Meet each period	Virtual Absent - Remote students who do not attend their class' Google Meet each period - OR - In-person students required to temporarily quarantine by the District who do not attend their class' Google Meet each period

Instructional Models

Full & In-Person Students	Attend school in-person Monday-Friday from April 12-June 22, 2021 Teachers take daily attendance marking students "Absent/Present" in Aspen
Remote Students	Attend school remotely Monday-Friday from April 12-June 22, 2021 via Google Meet - During each class period, the teacher records attendance (notes, sheets, etc.) - By the end of each day, the teachers submit attendance, marking students "Virtually Present/Virtually Absent" in Aspen. - School Secretary verifies daily attendance based on the number of virtual classes attended.

Quarantine Scenarios

District-Required Quarantine Determined by the administration/school nurse/healthcare provider that a student must quarantine based on the Department of Public Health guidelines, therefore can not attend	Quarantine due to elective out-of-state travel Absences due to vacation AND/OR out-of-state travel, which require quarantine upon return to MA per the current Governor's Travel advisory (i.e., elective travel, vacations, etc.), are not considered
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in-person during their scheduled days for a defined period of time.	excused absences.
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Attendance Scenarios

Students Absence Due to Illness and/or COVID-19 symptoms per attestation • Students with COVID-19 symptoms based on the attestation • Parents/Guardians must follow up with their student's healthcare provider • If quarantine is recommended per health provider, it may be considered a District required Quarantine	Parents/Guardians must report ALL STUDENTS absent EACH DAY by calling their school's absentee line. ○ Limit: 5 unexcused absences ○ Absences are only excused with appropriate documentation (medical notes, court documents, etc.) ○ In-person students absent from school can access Google Classroom to review missed assignments but cannot access the Google Meet. ○ Student submits assignments upon return to school ■ Checks-in with teacher or emails teacher to determine when assignments should be submitted. ■ Students have time equal to the number of absences to submit missed assignments.
District Required Quarantine due to COVID19 Health & Safety Protocols • Students identified as close contacts or COVID-19 Positive, etc.	Students who are required by the district to quarantine will be: • Expected to attend remotely via Google Meet for each class • Marked "Virtually Present" * An administrator or school nurse will notify teachers and families when a student is required to quarantine for a specific number of days.
Absences due to vacation, out of state travel advising quarantine upon return to MA	Quarantining as a result of elective travel, vacations, etc., is not considered an excused absence. • Absent students will be marked as unexcused. • Limit: 5 unexcused absences • Students can access assignments via Google classroom. • Students are responsible for making up missed work upon return to school. Teachers are not required to provide assignments prior to vacations or out-of-state travel.

STUDENT TRAVEL ADVISORY (updated 3/22/21)

Student Travel and Quarantine

Governor Baker issued a [State Travel Advisory](#) (effective 3/22/21), relating to the COVID-19 public health emergency stating all visitors entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, are advised to quarantine for ten days upon their arrival, with exemptions:

- Travelers who have received a negative COVID-19 result on a test administered not more than 72 hours prior to their arrival in Massachusetts. Travelers may also test out of the quarantine advisory after arrival in Massachusetts, as long as they quarantine until receiving a negative test result.
- Anyone who is entering Massachusetts for fewer than 24 hours
- Anyone who is returning to Massachusetts after being out of the State for fewer than 24 hours
- Travelers who are fully vaccinated (i.e., who have received two doses of either the Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines) or who have received a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine 14 days or more ago) and who do not have symptoms.
- Children who travel into and out of Massachusetts because of transfers of custody or visitation between parents or guardians are exempt from the advisory's requirements.
- Children who have received a positive COVID-19 test result or diagnosis of COVID-19 between 10 and 90 days and have completed the appropriate isolation period, do not need to quarantine upon arrival to Massachusetts.

Due to the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, the FPS reserves the right to modify, amend, adapt, etc. its policy as necessary to conform with any changes to the State Travel Advisory.

All students returning to Massachusetts by any means or mode who have left the state are urged to follow the state travel advisory.

If a student took a test prior to their arrival but did not yet receive a negative result, they are advised to quarantine until they receive the negative result. The student may obtain a test at their own expense after arrival in Massachusetts but are advised quarantine until they obtain a negative result. ([Testing as an Alternative to Quarantine](#)). **FPS is not permitted to use the BinaxNow test for students returning from travel.**

Students arriving from an international destination should quarantine for ten days if they cannot provide proof of a negative test result that meets the standards of the 72-hour test rule. In addition, any person traveling from a foreign country must comply with [CDC requirements as a requirement of entry to the United States](#).
