

# Student Attendance

Florida Law ([Section 1003.21, Florida Statutes](#)) states that children of compulsory school age must attend school regularly during the entire school term. As such, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) maintains an affirmative obligation to ensure that the compulsory attendance laws are enforced.

Attendance is critical to the academic success of students. By attending school and class every day, students are more likely to keep up with the daily lessons and assignments and achieve academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. The Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) District has a vision whereby each student engages in a rigorous course of study in preparation for a myriad of successful post-secondary options.

During the 2020-2021 school year, the M-DCPS District will incorporate multiple instructional models in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. The instructional models include, My School Online (MSO) (Remote instruction) and the Traditional Schoolhouse (In-person instruction). To capture student attendance to school and classes during each stage, the District will follow established attendance protocols and procedures as defined in [School Board Policy, 5200 – Attendance](#).



## TRADITIONAL SCHOOLHOUSE STUDENTS

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:** Students are to be counted in attendance to SCHOOL only if they are physically present at school when the Official Daily School Attendance is taken for the day or engaged in a school-approved educational activity which constitutes a part of the instructional program for the student. (Board Policy 5200 – Attendance). NOTE: If a student is not physically present when school attendance is taken but is present later in the school day for another assigned class, that student is considered tardy to school.

**CLASS ATTENDANCE:** Students are to be counted in attendance to CLASS if they are physically present in the class, have been excused by the teacher on a class related assignment, or have been requested by a member of the school support staff for an approved school activity.

## **MY SCHOOL ONLINE STUDENTS**

**MSO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:** Daily school attendance will be taken every scheduled school day during the students' first class of the day by his/her classroom teacher. Students are to be counted in attendance to school if they log into the first class of the day or are engaged in a school-approved educational activity which constitutes as part of the instructional program for the student. A student is considered tardy to school if the student is not present at the moment the attendance is taken for the first class assigned.

**MSO CLASS ATTENDANCE:** Students will be counted in attendance to class if they log into their teacher's live sessions. In Elementary level students will log into their teacher's live session at the beginning of the school day and each time they change instructors to be considered in attendance. At the Secondary level (6-12) students will log into their teacher's live session at the beginning of each class period/block. Students must enable the camera function on their computers so that the teacher can identify them and take attendance.

## **ABSENCES**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools will follow the established District attendance policy in regard to excused class absences as defined in School Board policy, 5200 – Attendance. If a student's excuse for being absent does not meet the criteria for excused absences set forth in the school board attendance policy for excused absences, or the parent(s) fails to report and explain the absence(s) within five days, the student's absence will be considered unexcused.

<http://attendanceservices.dadeschools.net/#!/fullWidth/804>

<http://api.dadeschools.net/WMSFiles/59/Student%20Attendance/School%20Board%20Policy%205200.pdf>