

Back-to-School Tips

Special Issues During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Virtual Instruction

- Ask your school if they will have in-person or virtual learning this fall. If the school is open but you want your child to stay home, ask for a meeting to talk about how your child will learn.
- Schools are giving devices and internet access to families that need them. You should contact your school ASAP if you need this help.
 - DCPS students can take the tech survey to ask for devices or hotspots [here](#). DCPS families that need help with technology can call (202) 442-5885.

Enrollment & Attendance

- Your child should have had a physical in the past year and be up-to-date on shots, even if they are attending school 100% online.
- All children in grades K-12 have the right to enroll with their neighborhood DCPS school.
- Students must log in or contact their school every day. If your child misses 10 or more days, your school may report you to Child Protective Services (CPS).

Special Education & 504 Plans during COVID-19

- If your child has an IEP, they will keep getting their IEP services. Talk to your school about how this will work while your child is learning at home.
- If your child has a 504 Plan, they will get any services they need to access their education. If your child is attending 100% online, they may only need some of the 504 Plan accommodations and services.
- You can write down the services your child gets. You can include who met with your child, how long they met, and (if you know) what was worked on.

Discipline

- Being dismissed early or being told not to log onto online learning is a type of suspension.
- If your child is in K-5th grade, the school can't suspend them for more than 5 days in a row. If your child is in 6th-12th grade, the school can't suspend for more than 10 days in a row.

- No child can be suspended for more than 20 total days each school year unless there is a special reason.
- If your child has a disability, the school can't suspend them for more than 10 total days each school year without having a meeting to see if the behavior was a result of your child's disability.
- Schools can't make you meet with them before letting your child return to class.