

Attendance

April 2020

- ***How will attendance be handled for the ten days of closed schools? Will schools be required to make up the ten days or will a waiver be an attendance waiver?***

At the April 14, 2020, State Board meeting, the State Board approved the request to provide the State Superintendent the authority to waive up to five days of student attendance for Maryland public schools for the 2019-2020 school year, upon the request of a local superintendent of schools on behalf of a school system.

- ***What currently defines “present” or “absent”?***

Local school systems must establish expectations for their students and determine what students are to accomplish. Attendance should be aligned with these expectations and the school system's continuity of learning plan.

The [Maryland Student Records System Manual](#) allows for a student to be counted present if engaged in activity sponsored by the school and personally supervised by school personnel. This may include authorized independent study, work study programs, field trips, athletic events, contests, music festivals, student conventions, instruction for homebound students, and similar activities when officially authorized under policies of the local school board. Local school systems should ensure that attendance policies include any locations identified in their continuity of instruction plans.

LSSs should ensure their attendance and absence policy accommodates for the implementation of their continuity of learning plan. Recommendations include clearly communicating expectations to students, staff and parents. All students should follow individual local school system policies and guidelines for excused absences.

- ***Moving forward, what is the required amount of time that a student must spend doing distance learning (or be signed online) in order for their attendance to count as a school day?***

The [Maryland Student Records System Manual](#) allows for students to be counted present if engaged in activity sponsored by the school and personally supervised by school personnel including homebound instruction. Students may be counted present based on the amount of time they are expected to be engaged in school sponsored activities. Local school systems should ensure that attendance policies include any locations identified in their continuity of learning plans.

- ***How will student attendance be tracked by LSS?***

The LSS should ensure that attendance tracking procedures support the attendance policies implemented as part of each LSSs continuity of learning plan.