

Overview:

School is the best and safest space for children.

CPS remains fully committed to providing every child with a learning environment where they feel safe, welcomed, and supported, and where their unique abilities and life experiences are celebrated every day. CPS has [strong protections and protocols in place](#) to protect our students and staff. These protections were reaffirmed by the Chicago Board of Education in a [resolution](#) in November of 2024, which the Board passed again in February of 2025. ***While these protections and procedures are related to immigration enforcement, they apply to interactions with all federal agents and representatives, including the National Guard.***

In accordance with the Illinois Trust Act and Chicago's Welcoming City Ordinance, CPS:

- DOES NOT ask for our families' immigration status
- WILL NOT coordinate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- DOES NOT share student records with ICE or any other federal representatives except in the rare case where there is a court order or consent from the parent/guardian
- WILL NOT allow ICE agents or any other federal representatives access to CPS facilities unless they produce a criminal judicial warrant signed by a federal judge

Attendance Guidance

- If a parent/guardian reports an absence and attributes it to fear of federal representative-related procedures, schools CAN excuse the absence under “concern for student health and safety”. In the memo box, “concern for student health and safety” should be written. Additional information should not be provided in the memo box to respect student/family confidentiality.
 - Regarding how long this reason for absence can be used, CPS policy does not provide a time limit. The reasonableness of the parent’s/guardian’s concern is subject to evaluation. Please refer to CPS Policy 703.1 - Comprehensive Policy on Attendance for additional information on valid causes for absence.
 - As guidance related to the enforcement of federal representative-related procedures evolves, updates will be provided.
- The reason for student absence must be communicated via one of the approved methods for the absence to be considered an “excused absence”:
 - Signed and dated paper note
 - Call from a parent/guardian recorded in the CPS Call Collection Log
 - E-absence submission
- In cases where a parent/guardian is impacted by federal representative-related procedures and the parent/guardian is unable to communicate a reason for absence to the school, the student will be marked **UNEXCUSED**.

- Guidance has been issued for families on naming a short-term guardian in the event of actions by federal representatives. An individual identified as a short-term guardian can communicate to the school the reason for the student's absence. Absences can be changed from **UNEXCUSED** to **EXCUSED** with proper communication and documentation from the confirmed short-term guardian.
 - Documents that have been signed by the parent/guardian provide evidence as to who has been appointed short-term guardian.
- **Tardies and Early Dismissals:** Some families may decide to bring students early, and/or pick their child/children up before the end of the day in order to avoid official start and dismissal times, wherein federal representatives may be present.
 - Standard procedures for both Tardies and Early Dismissals are to be followed. If applicable, elementary schools are to calculate attendance for Half Day, as they would normally.
 - Additionally, while traditionally, schools are asked to discourage tardiness and early dismissals, the circumstances as to which this may occur require understanding. Students who arrive late to school typically are asked for a reason; if the reason provided is one that is related to federal representative activity, the District asks that schools enter the same reason for absence in the documentation, "concern for health and safety."
 - Again, no information should document that the student's tardiness, absence, or early release is associated with concerns of federal representative activity.
- Schools should continue to make the required daily call for all unreported absent students. If someone answers the call, schools should immediately identify themselves and state that they are calling on behalf of the school.
- If a student's whereabouts cannot be determined, the [Lost Child Process](#) should be followed.
- If a student currently resides in a shelter, schools are to submit an inquiry in ServiceNow (under "[STLS and Newcomer Student Location](#)") to confirm their shelter status. STLS or OMME staff will check with shelter management to verify whether the student is still residing in the shelter or if they have self-resolved.
- The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has not approved a hybrid or remote option at this time for students who want to attend school remotely due to concerns regarding the presence of federal representatives; therefore, it cannot be offered to students for this reason. If this changes, information will be shared.
- Regarding students participating in demonstrations, protests, or civic engagement activities of any kind, Public Act-102-0981 states that:

Any child from a middle school or high school, subject to guidelines established by the State Board of Education, shall be permitted by a school board one school day long excused absence per school for the child who is absent from school to engage in a civic event. The school board may require that the student provide reasonable advance notice of the intended absence to the appropriate school administrator and require that the student provide documentation of participation in a civic event to the appropriate school administrator.

"Civic Event" means an event sponsored by a non-profit organization or governmental entity that is open to the public. "Civic Event" includes, but is not limited to, an artistic or cultural performance or educational gathering that supports the mission of the sponsoring non-profit organization.

To be eligible for an EXCUSED absence, the following criteria must be met:

- The parent/guardian must communicate that their child is participating in a civic engagement event via one of the approved forms (i.e., paper note, documented phone call, e-absence)
- The student is in middle school or high school; that would be grades 6th through 12th.
- Students who are not in middle school or high school are not eligible.

Resources for Schools and Families:

- [Immigration Resources for CPS](#)
- [Guidance for Responding to Interactions with Federal Representatives.](#)
- [Guidance for supporting a stranded student if a parent or guardian has been detained by ICE during the school day.](#)