



# Parent and Student Guide for the 2026-2027 School Year



## Back-to-School for the 2026-2027 School Year

The 2026-2027 school year starts on **August 24, 2026 for K-12; August 25, 2026 for Pre-K**. It will be the first full day of classes for all students, and we look forward to seeing you. Please use this guide to prepare for the new school year, and have a safe and happy summer!

## 2026-2027 Minimum Health Requirements

Evidence shows that healthy students have better attendance patterns and perform better academically. The State of Illinois requires parents/guardians to provide proof that their child has received their required immunizations and school physical exam before **October 15, 2026**, or their child will face exclusion from school. For more information about CPS health requirements, contact your school nurse.

**Physical Examination** – Due upon enrollment or no later than October 15, 2026.

Must be completed within 12 months before entering: PE/PK, Kindergarten, 6th Grade, and 9th Grade, or whichever grade the student is in if they are entering CPS for the first time.

**Vision Examination** – Due upon enrollment or no later than October 15, 2026 for students who are:

- Entering the State of Illinois public school system for the first time at any grade level
- Entering Kindergarten

**Dental Examination** – Due by May 15, 2027 for students in Kindergarten, 2nd Grade, 6th Grade, and 9th Grade.

**Immunization Requirements** – Many children missed check-ups and recommended childhood vaccinations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Making sure your child is up-to-date with their vaccinations is the best way to protect them from a variety of vaccine-preventable diseases. Vaccines for the following illnesses are required at time of enrollment (or no later than 10/15/26) by the State of Illinois for students unless an Illinois Certificate of Religious Exemption Form is received: Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus Polio; Measles, Mumps, Rubella; Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib); Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (PCV); Hepatitis B; Chickenpox; Meningococcal Disease.

Detailed health requirements and forms may be found at: [cps.edu/services-and-supports/health-and-wellness/health-forms](https://cps.edu/services-and-supports/health-and-wellness/health-forms) or call the Office of Student Health and Wellness at 773-553-KIDS (5437).

## 2026 Summer Programs

To explore programs available through the City of Chicago and the Mayor's Office, visit: [explore.mychimyfuture.org](https://explore.mychimyfuture.org).

To explore Chicago Park District programs, call 312-742-PLAY (7529) or visit: [chicagoparkdistrict.com](https://chicagoparkdistrict.com).

To explore CPS programs and search programs by school, visit: [cps.edu/campaigns/summer-programs](https://cps.edu/campaigns/summer-programs).

## 2026 Summer School Session

The Summer Bridge program is required for students in grades 2, 5, and 8 who do not meet promotion criteria. The program will run June 22, 2026-July 16, 2026, Monday through Thursday for five hours per day.

Students required to attend Summer Bridge will receive a notification letter by June 1st.

For questions regarding Bridge please contact the Summer Assistance team at [summerbridge@cps.edu](mailto:summerbridge@cps.edu). For other programs, contact your local school or Network Office.

For information on all Summer Programs and to search programs by school, visit: [cps.edu/campaigns/summer-programs](https://cps.edu/campaigns/summer-programs).

## Key Dates for the 2026-2027 School Year

August 24, 2026 – School starts for grades K-12

August 25, 2026 – School starts for Pre-K

June 10, 2027 – School ends for Pre-K

June 11, 2027 – School ends for K-12

## Parent-Teacher Conference Days (Report Card Pick-Up) and Report Card Distribution Days

Elementary and High School Parent-Teacher Conference Days (Report Card Pick-Up): I believe they are November 2, 2026, and April 12, 2027.

Report Card Distribution Days: Q2 on January 28, 2027; Q4 on June 11, 2027



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## Summer Safety Tips

If you have questions about which vaccines are best for you or your child, CPS recommends that you talk to your doctor who knows your health history.

The COVID-19 vaccine, including booster, is recommended for everyone 6 months and older. Visit [cps.edu/vaccine](https://cps.edu/vaccine).

Contact the Office of Student Health and Wellness at 773-553-KIDS (5437) if you need help with health insurance.

Parents should know where their children are at all times!

Do not swim in areas that do not have a lifeguard on duty.

Prolonged exposure to the sun can be harmful. Children should dress appropriately and not be exposed to the sun for long periods of time.

Students are encouraged to travel together in pairs whenever possible.

If a student feels uncomfortable or threatened in any way, they should go to the nearest business or populated area and call for help.

While having a phone can help in a crisis, students should use phones with good judgment and be aware of their surroundings.

Students should report any suspicious vehicles, persons or behavior to the police or a trusted adult.

Students and parents or guardians can report any concerns of sexual misconduct to CPS Office of Student Protections and Title IX at 773-535-4400, [osp@cps.edu](mailto:osp@cps.edu) or online complaint form: [cps.guardianconduct.com/incident-reporting](https://cps.guardianconduct.com/incident-reporting).

Please call the Cook County Crime Stoppers, 1-800-535-7867, for assistance in preventing violence in your home, on your street, in your school and in your community.

## Holidays/Vacations

September 7, 2026 (Labor Day)

October 12, 2026 (Indigenous Peoples' Day)

November 3, 2026 (General Election observed in lieu of Veterans Day)

November 26-27, 2026 (Thanksgiving)

December 21, 2026-January 1, 2027 (Winter Vacation)

January 18, 2027 (M.L. King Day)

February 15, 2027 (Presidents' Day)

March 22-26, 2027 (Spring Break)

May 31, 2027 (Memorial Day)

For all non-attendance dates for students, please review the 2026-2027 CPS Calendar for Elementary and High Schools at: [cps.edu/calendar](https://cps.edu/calendar).