



Dear Dobson Academy Families,

Questions have understandably been posed about student absences during mandated quarantine/isolation due to COVID-19. This is somewhat lengthy, but it is important that you read this email in its entirety to understand the changes we are making to tracking attendance during a quarantine or isolation period.

### **Background:**

In July, the state House amended a statute regarding the “[Instructional Time Model](#)” for schools (see [H.B. 2862](#)). There is a lot in these that do not pertain to Dobson Academy; however, the aspect that does relate is ‘*student attendance when quarantined or isolated.*’ Ball Charter Schools (Val Vista, Dobson, and Hearn Academies) has submitted a plan model that would allow us to consider a quarantined/isolated student’s attendance as “present” IF that student meets certain criteria. This model was developed with the input of building administrators, and was presented in an open committee meeting as well as at the August Governing Board meeting. It was approved by our Board in August and is in the process of being submitted to the state for approval.

### **The Criteria:**

Students who are quarantined/isolated due to COVID-19, either due to testing positive or being a close contact, could have their daily attendance marked as “present” (to be coded as ‘present-remote’) if the following conditions are met:

- Student shall be engaged in school activities/work/etc. for 50% of the academic day as documented through time online (Google Classroom, GoGuardian, ReadyGen, My Perspectives, enVision Math, Discovery Science, Journeys, MobyMax, etc.) and work completion (reading logs, written tasks, math games, science experiments, etc.)
  - K-4<sup>th</sup> grade is minimum 2.5 hours per day
  - 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade is minimum 3.0 hours per day
- Student completes all assigned work and submits by the end of the calendar day on the due date.
- Student takes part in any tutoring or other support sessions, as requested by the teacher.
- For quarantines longer than 3 days, student checks-in with a teacher or instructional paraprofessional during their posted office hours (indicated as “Academic Advising” in our ITM). This Advisor may or may not be your child’s homeroom teacher.
- Student and parents/guardians maintain communication with teacher(s) by promptly reporting any issues with work completion, questions about assignments, or to seek help with content.

It is imperative to note that online, synchronous learning is not a model being offered by Ball Charter Schools. The exception would be specially designed instruction per a student’s IEP or similar plan that is delivered by a resource teacher or service provider (speech therapist, occupational therapist, etc.).

The office staff and administration will work with teachers to determine which students are eligible to have coded absences changed to ‘present-remote’ marks for the sake of attendance. **Initially, you may see an absence mark for your child’s attendance when in quarantine.** The Registrar must confirm that the student’s work was completed at the student participated in activities as noted above. Further, we will work together to determine if students are eligible to have past absences re-coded as ‘present-remote.’ Please allow us time to review the information and make necessary changes. Thank you for your patience.