



Dads Take Your Child to School Day Ten Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Dads Take Your Child to School Day program?

Dads Take Your Child to School (DTYCTS) is an annual event held throughout New York State celebrating the special relationship that fathers have with their children. It occurs at the beginning of the school year: inviting fathers, stepfathers, foster fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, godfathers, and other significant male caregivers to accompany their child(ren) to school on a specific day, and encouraging them to make a commitment to participate in their child(ren)'s education throughout the year.

2. How long has New York State been involved in the DTYCTS Day program?

2014 will mark the eighth year that New York State has been involved. Some programs and schools have been involved longer, but that is generally directly through the [Black Star Project's Million Father- March](#) program, which is the model for the New York State effort.

3. How Does It Work?

On Tuesday, September 16, 2014, fathers and other significant male caregivers will be encouraged to arrive with their children 15 to 30 minutes before the start of class. They will be welcomed as guests at their children's school or Head Start program. Each location plans their own program and fun activities to welcome dads. Check with your child's school to see if they are participating this year. If not, work with the principal and parents to schedule and organize the event.

4. Why Is This Important?

Fathers have an undeniable effect on their children. Studies overwhelmingly show that positive paternal involvement is associated with improvements in children's:

- Academic performance,
- Cognitive development,
- Behavior,
- Psychosocial development,
- Health and wellbeing,
- Household economics, and
- General/overall parenting quality.

5. What if the child/student, does not have a father in the home?

If dads are unavailable to attend the event, invite grandfathers, foster fathers, step-fathers, uncles, cousins, big brothers, significant male caregivers or male friends of the family. Consider inviting the local faith institution to support the effort and adopt the school for the day or the entire year!

6. How can we keep the Dads involved throughout the year?

- Encourage and ask fathers to participate in PTA or Head Start Policy Council
- Encourage fathers to volunteer as hall monitors in the school
- Involve men in school beautification projects such as landscaping, painting, refurbishing, or building project at the school
- Recruit men to speak to students about their career or job
- Ask fathers for help in putting on a student talent showcase: helping with programs, staging, set building, lighting, ushering, and other preparations
- Encourage fathers to read to classes and encourage them to continue reading with their child at home
- Organize a father-daughter dance to help fathers bond with their daughters

7. What are some ideas for themes for the day of the program?

- Financial Literacy & Asset Building
- Job Development & Educational Advancement
- Improving Literacy & Homework Help
- Health & Wellness for Men & Families
- School Safety & Volunteer Opportunities

8. What if there are challenges or concerns about the Dads presence at the school?

Please follow your own procedures and protocols related to school safety and engagement.

9. What about the Moms?

This is not an either/or issue. We know that mothers matter, as well as do other family members. The day and the focus on Dads is not to discount or diminish the influence or importance of mothers and Mom figures. It is to encourage a view that includes Dads in an effort to fully engage families and neighborhoods in achieving great educational outcomes for students.

10. Where can I find out more about the program and work?

Visit www.dadstakeyourchildtoschoolday.com and http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/fatherhood/take_your_child_to_school/index.htm