

EVERY DAY COUNTS

Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early



“Help Your Child Succeed in School, Career, and Life”

Did You Know?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Students can fall behind even if they miss just a day or two every few weeks.
- Being late to school results in missed learning and can lead to poor attendance habits over time.
- Missing 10% of the school year (2 days a month / 18 days a year) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Absences affect the entire classroom; support each other in coming to school every day!

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building the habit of regular attendance early so students learn right away that going to school all day, every day is important. Regular attendance will benefit students now, and it will also help them do well in high school, college, and at work.

What You Can Do

- Develop a regular bedtime and morning routine. Turn off electronics at bedtime.
- Support your child in laying out clothes and packing his or her backpack the night before.
- Avoid missing school unless your child is truly sick and seek help if chronic illness is a challenge.
- Avoid scheduling vacations or well child medical appointments while school is in session.
- Develop a back-up plan for getting to school with a family member, neighbor, or another parent.
- Participate in back to school activities to help your student feel confident starting the school year.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to your child’s teacher, school counselor, or principal about working together to make a plan to provide supports.

When Do Absences Become a Problem?

Ideally students would be at school every day, but circumstances do not always allow for perfect attendance. Strive to miss no more than four days each semester, missing 5-8 days is risking chronic absenteeism, and missing 9 or more days is chronic absenteeism.

9 or More Days in a Semester — Chronic Absenteeism
5-8 Days in a Semester — At Risk of Chronic Absenteeism
4 or Fewer Days in a Semester — Regular Attendance

