

ATTENDANCE MATTERS: HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED!

“School success goes hand in hand with good attendance”

DID YOU KNOW?

- Missing 10% (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just one or two days every few weeks
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school- and themselves. Start building this habit early so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



- **Chronic Absence: 18+ days**
- **Warning Signs: 10-17 days**
- **Good Attendance: 9 or fewer absences**

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



- Only keep kids home when truly sick
- Set consistent bedtime & routines
- Lay out clothes & backpacks the night before
- Talk to teachers if your child feels anxious about school
- Plan for backup transportation
- Avoid scheduling appointments during school

Ways to Talk to Your Child About Going to School

- **Start the day positive:** “I can’t wait to hear what you learn today!”
- **Ask about their plans:** “What’s one thing you’re looking forward to?”
- **Share why school matters:** “School helps your brain grow strong.”
- **Use open-ended questions after school:** “What made you smile today?”
- **Celebrate small wins:** “I’m proud you went even when you felt tired.”
- **Acknowledge feelings:** “It’s okay to feel nervous about something new.”
- **Create a fun goodbye ritual:** special hug, handshake, or phrase.
- **Connect to their interests:** “You love art—maybe you’ll make something new today.”

“Every morning you send your child to school, you’re giving them the gift of opportunity and showing them you believe in their future.”