

Support good attendance

Children need to understand that unless they're ill, they are expected to be in school every day. Here are some tips to help ensure that your child has the best attendance possible.

Make education a priority

With your words and actions, show your child that regular attendance and doing well in school are important. Show interest in what your child is doing in school, ask to see their work, and let them know that you are there to help them any way you can.

Develop routines

Help your child get everything they need for school ready the night before. Set out clothes, shoes, socks, coat, and backpack.

Also, make sure that your child goes to bed early enough to get a good night's sleep—and is up in time to have a good breakfast and get to school on time.

Be informed

Know bus pick-up times, parent drop-off times, and school bell times. Determine what time your child needs to be out the door to get to school on time.

Encourage healthy habits

Avoiding illness is crucial for good attendance. Make sure your child maintains a healthy lifestyle with a balanced diet, regular exercise, and adequate sleep.

Encourage involvement

Encourage your child to be involved in school activities and to interact with their classmates. A child who is excited to go to school and be with friends is much less likely to be chronically absent.

By the same token, look for ways that you can get involved in your child's school. Go to open houses, attend parent-teacher conferences, and volunteer when you have time. This shows your child that school is important and that you are invested in their education.

Communicate with the school

When your child is absent for more than a day or two, talk to your child's teacher about getting some make-up work. If you have a situation that causes your child to miss a lot of school, work with everyone involved to keep your child on track academically until the issue is resolved.

Get support

If you have difficulty getting your child to and from school, or if your child doesn't seem to want to go to school for any reason, talk to their teacher, school counselor, and/or an administrator. Work together to resolve whatever issue is having a negative impact on your child's attendance.

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Why Attendance Is Important

in Elementary School



Information and tips to help parents support and improve their child's school attendance

Why Attendance Is Important in Elementary School

While being in school every day puts students of all ages on the road to success, regular attendance is especially important in elementary school. *These are the years when the foundation for academic success is built!*

Elementary school children are absorbing new knowledge and developing new skills every day. Missing a few days of school here and there may put a student behind, but with effort, they can usually catch up. However, being chronically absent can be a big problem for a young learner—now and down the road.

As a parent, it is important for you to make your child's attendance a priority. This pamphlet will explain why regular attendance is so important in elementary school. It will also provide tips and advice on how you can make sure your child is in school every day.

Facts & figures

The numbers speak for themselves—attendance is the #1 school success factor.

Being in school enables students to get the help they need.

Early elementary students with good attendance receive 25% more reading instruction than chronically absent students



25%

Early attendance habits affect later attendance—and school success.

Absenteeism in kindergarten and 1st grade are associated with negative outcomes in those grades—and in later grades as well.

Chronic absenteeism is an indicator.

By 6th grade, chronic absenteeism is the leading indicator a student will drop out of high school.



Parents make a difference!

When parents communicate to their young children that attendance is important, their absenteeism rate is about 7%. When parents don't communicate this to their children, their absenteeism rate nearly doubles.

There is a direct relationship between chronic absenteeism and literacy.

Research has shown that only 17% of students who are chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade are able to read proficiently by 3rd grade.



17%

Why it matters

School attendance impacts your child in many important ways. Here are just a few.

Absences add up

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing two days or more per month. It may not seem like a lot, but those absences add up.

Academic skills

Being frequently absent negatively impacts a student's academic performance and test scores. Frequent absences in elementary school have also been shown to significantly affect a student's reading and math skills.

Social growth

Elementary students are learning social and emotional skills that will help them throughout their lives. At school, they learn to interact with others, make friends, and build relationships with adults outside of their family. They also learn how to follow new rules and routines.

More effective learning

When children are in class, they learn material along with their classmates. When they're not, they have to learn it on their own and/or with your help, which is time-consuming, stressful for everyone, and a much less effective way to learn.

If it's often a struggle to get your child to go to school, watch this short video for some suggestions.



VIDEO