



ELIMINATING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Your child's daily, on-time attendance in school is critical to their success. It's understandable that some challenges to your child's school attendance are unavoidable, such as an illness or a family emergency.

It is important to understand the impact of absences from school, especially if they become frequent. Chronic absenteeism can cause your child to fall behind in school. Absences can add up and impact your child's reading, writing, and math skills, which will have a negative effect on his or her future.

- 5 to 7.5 million students are chronically absent each year
- Chronic absenteeism means missing 10% or more of school days in a year
- A student is chronically absent if he or she misses as few as two days of school a month
- Students who are chronically absent are less likely to succeed academically and more likely to drop out of school
- Attending school everyday increases a child's chances of success in school and in life.



While chronic absenteeism can be especially harmful to children in preschool and kindergarten, you also should know that any student who is chronically absent at any grade level is less likely to graduate high school or go on to succeed in college.

Families are their children's first, most important, and longest lasting teachers, advocates, and nurturers. Take the following action steps so that your children can develop a more positive attitude toward school, stay in school longer, have better attendance, and an overall rewarding school experience.

- **Generate and act on absenteeism data.** Prioritize the development of early warning prevention and intervention systems that identify students who are, or are at risk of becoming, chronically absent before they miss enough school that it is nearly impossible for them to catch up
- **Create and deploy positive messages and measures.** Focus on developing positive messages for youth and families as well as implementing supportive engagement strategies
- **Focus communities on addressing chronic absenteeism.** Launch local initiatives to raise public awareness about the causes and effects of chronic absenteeism, including awareness among families and youth.

SUCCESS STARTS WITH ATTENDANCE

According to data compiled by Attendance Works:

- **Poor attendance is a national challenge.** About one in five students in both fourth and eighth grade reported missing three or more days in the month before the test. If that pattern persisted all year, the students would have missed 27 days or about 15 percent of the school year. About 3 percent of students missed 10 or more days in the prior month, a level of absenteeism associated with the weakest scores
- **Student attendance matters for academic performance.** The association between poor attendance and lower National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores is robust and holds for every state and for each of the 21 urban districts regardless of size, region or composition of the student population
- **Poor attendance contributes to the achievement gap for students struggling with poverty and from communities of color.**

Download and share Attendance Works' printable infographics on who is affected, why it matters and what we can do at www.attendanceworks.org.

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