

What Parents Can Do

1. **Send your children to school every day**, starting in kindergarten, to teach your children that attendance counts. Continue to monitor their attendance through high school

2. **Don't let your child miss school without a good reason**. Try to avoid medical appointments during the school day or vacations when school is in session.

3. **Create routines and stick to them**. Set a regular bed time and morning routine to get ready for school. For older students, be sure they get enough sleep.

4. **Keep an eye on what's happening with your children's education**. Look for signs that they

are bored, struggling with school work or having trouble with friends. Seek out tutoring, talk with teachers and encourage sports and other activities.

5. **Learn about the school's policies**. What incentives do teachers offer for good attendance? What counts as an excused or unexcused absence? What are the penalties?

6. **Find your own ways to reward good attendance**. You know best what motivates your child.

7. **Be open and honest with school officials**. Make sure the school has your up-to-date contact information. Work with the teacher, counselor and principal on problems your children are experiencing.

8. **Seek medical help when absences pile up**. Anything from asthma to a bad bout of head lice can keep kids out of school. Work with your doctor or school nurse.

9. **Turn to other families who can help you** with dropping off or picking up children and with babysitting.

10. **Seek help when you have a problem**. If absences result from family issue—a sudden illness, a lost job, foreclosure or a broken-down car—the school can connect you to other families or to social service providers.

When do absences become a problem?

Chronic Absence

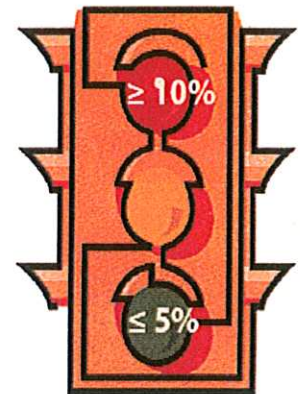
18 or more days

Warning Signs

10 to 17 days

Satisfactory Attendance

9 or fewer days absent



Note: These numbers assume an 180 day school year

Attendance Works helps schools, communities and districts track and reduce chronic absence.

Go to www.attendanceworks.org