



Wednesday Cafe
Attendance Matters
9-14-16

Multiple Measures of Attendance

Average Daily Attendance

How many student show up to school every day?
The percentage of enrolled students who attend school each day.

Truancy

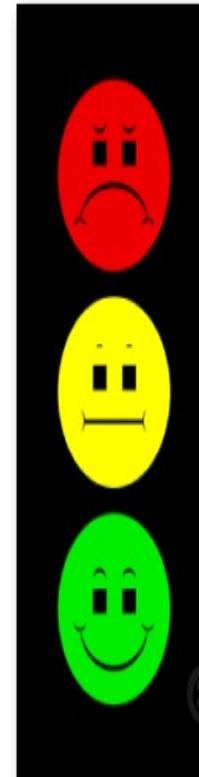
Who is missing school without permission?
Typically refers only to unexcused absences.

Chronic Absence

Who is missing so much school they are academically at risk? Broadly means missing too much school for any reason – excused, unexcused, etc. Researches define is as missing 10% of school.

Attendance Matters

Many parents are not aware of how quickly absences add up to academic trouble.



Chronic Absence
18 or more days

Warning Signs
10 - 17 days

Satisfactory
9 or fewer
absences

Attendance Matters

September					October					November					December					January									
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F					
													X				X												
							X				X																		
	X	X						X				X			X	X				X	X	X							
February					March					April					May					June									
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F					
				X										X															
X	X													X			X								X	X			
								X					X																

Excused and unexcused absences result in too much time lost in the classroom.

Many children miss 10% of a school year - that is almost a month per school year!

Why Attendance Matters

Parents underestimate the number of year-end absences. 60% of parents said their child was absent an average of 2+ days a month, but not 10+ days a year.

If a child is absent an averages of 2+ days a month, then they are absent far more than 10+ days a year.

MISSING
(SCHOOL)=
MISSING
OUT

Attendance Matters



One in 10
kindergarten and
1st grade students
nationally are
chronically absent.

Download from
Dreamstime.com
This watermarked comp image is for previewing purposes only.

41539188
Libux77 | Dreamstime.com

**“Attendance doesn’t really matter until
high school”**

Attendance Matters

Only 17% of students considered chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were reading proficiently in the 3rd grade.



Compared to 64% of those students with good attendance.

Why Attendance Matters



Over 2/3 of the U.S. fourth grade students are **NOT** reading at grade level!

“Absences are ok if I say so....

vacation, rest, reward for good behavior,
appointments, family time, bullying, sickness,
help around the house.....”

Attendance Matters

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



Why Attendance Matters

September					October					November					December					January									
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F					
													X				X												
							X				X																		
	X	X						X				X			X	X				X	X	X							
February					March					April					May					June									
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F					
				X										X															
X	X													X			X					X	X						
								X					X																

A student who misses 10 days is 25% less likely to enroll in college.

Why Attendance Matters

Students who attend school regularly are more likely to graduate and find good jobs.

A high school graduate makes **\$1 million** more than a dropout over a lifetime.

ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

Rectangular Snip

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

read well by the end of third grade



MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

pass important courses



HIGH SCHOOLERS

stay on track for graduation



COLLEGE STUDENTS

earn their degrees



WORKERS

succeed in their jobs

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.



Advancing Student Success By Reducing Chronic Absence

www.attendanceworks.org

Factors that contribute to Chronic Absence

Myths

- ~Absences are only a problem if they are unexcused.
- ~Sporadic versus consecutive absences aren't a problem
- ~Attendance only matters in the older grades.

Barriers

- ~Lack of access to health or dental care
- ~Poor transportation
- ~Trauma
- ~No safe path to school
- ~Homelessness

Aversion

- ~ Child struggling academically or socially
- ~Bullying
- ~Ineffective school discipline
- ~Parents had negative school experience
- ~Undiagnosed disability.

Disengagement

- ~Lack of engaging and relevant instruction
- ~No meaningful relationships with adults in school
- ~Vulnerable to being with peers out of school vs. in school
- ~Poor school climate



The good news is

-

that students can
reverse their
academic
performance
if they improve
their attendance

Recommended Site Level Strategies

A. Recognize Good and Improved Attendance

B. Engage Students and Parents

E. Develop Programmatic Response to Barriers

D. Provide Personalized Early Outreach

C. Monitor Attendance Data and Practice

Schools inadvertently reinforce some absence-causing beliefs

Reinforce Attendance

- Class rewards for good attendance (e.g. popcorn or ice cream parties)
- Individual recognition for students with good attendance

Motivation for kids, not for parents

Reinforce Absenteeism

- Impersonal letters
- Teachers send work home in response to absences
- Teachers do not address absenteeism issue with parents
- Parents do not feel their child is safe in school

Reinforces parents' existing attitudes and behaviors

Impersonal Letters:

- Easy to disregard
- Many parents feel the school miscounted - but parents couldn't verify because they weren't tracking absences.
- Many parents felt that the school didn't understand them

Sending work home

- Parents thought that completing a makeup packet caught their child up the missed day's work.

Teachers Not Addressing Absenteeism

- Most parents reported that they regularly communicate with their children's teachers, but never about absences.

Ways to Emphasize Attendance from Day One

- Talk with parents to share the value of good attendance and let them know you are there to help.
- Send home handouts with information and tips.
- Make time at parent event to demonstrate the importance of attendance.
- Celebrate Attendance Awareness Month
- Use your Parent-Teacher Conferences to talk about attendance

What might educators say to families?

LEARN - about the student's family. Ask what their vision is for their child's future.

SHARE – positive things you've observed about the student. Share your own vision for student learning and development, including helping put student on a path to success by encouraging a habit of good attendance.

INFORM – review attendance report with parents. Inform parents of possible impacts of missing school. Connect attendance to parents' hopes and dreams for their child.

DISCUSS – challenges parents face in getting their child to school, as well as strengths they can build on.

ARRIVE at a PLAN – Think through strategies with parents for addressing absences and help them to develop an attendance improvement plan.



Tools for Attendance Awareness month

Attendance Awareness Toolkit

Teaching Attendance

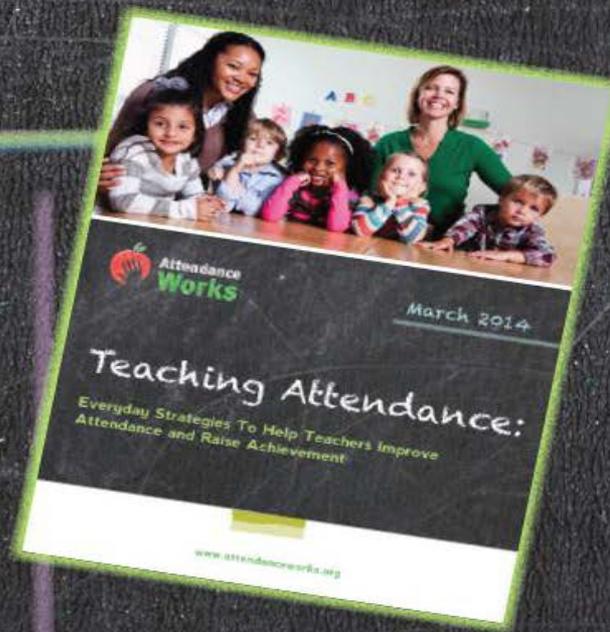
A toolkit to help teachers

Classroom teachers already know how missing too much school can put a child's academic future at risk. Chronic absence (missing 10% or more of school in excused or unexcused absences) can be a significant challenge, starting as early as preschool.

Research has shown that children who are chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade are much less likely to read well by the end of third grade, and absences throughout elementary school are associated with poor attendance and lower academic performance in later grades. By middle and high school, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign that a student is at risk of dropping out.

Attendance Works is pleased to offer a free Teacher Toolkit offering tips for how teachers can:

- Emphasize the importance of attendance starting on Day 1
- Leverage parent-teacher conferences to deal with absenteeism
- Build a culture of attendance in classrooms



Visit:
www.attendanceworks.org
to download

Attendance Tools

- Attendance Works website:

<http://www.attendanceworks.org/>

- Engaging Parents Toolkit
- Parent Materials
- Interactive Activities
- Videos

SHARING

Are you on the Attendance Awareness month map?

What is your school doing to inform families of the importance of attendance?

