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

“Attendance doesn’t really until high school”
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.......”
Why Attendance Matters

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

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

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.
## Factors that contribute to Chronic Absence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Myths</th>
<th>Barriers</th>
<th>Aversion</th>
<th>Disengagement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>~Absences are only a problem if they are unexcused.</td>
<td>~Lack of access to health of dental care</td>
<td>~Child struggling academically or socially</td>
<td>~Lack of engaging and relevant instruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>~Sporadic versus consecutive absences aren’t a problem</td>
<td>~Poor transportation</td>
<td>~Bullying</td>
<td>~No meaningful relationships with adults in school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>~Attendance only matters in the older grades.</td>
<td>~Trauma</td>
<td>~Ineffective school discipline</td>
<td>~Vulnerable to being with peers out of school vs. in school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>~No safe path to school</td>
<td>~Parents had negative school experience</td>
<td>~Poor school climate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>~Homelessness</td>
<td>~Undiagnosed disability.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The good news is - that students can reverse their academic performance if they improve their attendance.
Tools for Attendance Awareness month

Attendance Awareness Toolkit
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
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

Share one strategy you learned today that you want to incorporate in your school or classroom to encourage students to attend school every day.