

Attendance Facts to Share with Parents

1. Children who are absent too much (more than 10% of the time, or 18 days in a full school year) do less well in first grade. For some groups the difference is even greater. (Hedy Chang, *Present, Engaged and Accounted for: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*)
2. One in ten kindergarten and 1st grade students miss a month of school during the school year when all their absences are added up. That is critical learning being missed. Children who do not learn the building blocks and basic skills in the early grades must work much harder to stay afloat as they go on. Many never catch up. (Hedy Chang, *Present, Engaged and Accounted for: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*)
3. Chronic absence is the single strongest predictor of dropping out of school before graduation. Students who drop out of school are much more likely to be poor, unemployed, have substance abuse problems, be teen parents, and be involved with the law. (Hedy Chang, *Present, Engaged and Accounted for: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*)
4. Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school. (attendanceworks.org)
5. An estimated 5 million to 7.5 million U.S. students miss nearly a month of school each year. (attendanceworks.org)
6. Absenteeism and its ill effects start early. One in 10 kindergarten and first grade students are chronically absent. (attendanceworks.org)
7. Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade or be held back. (attendanceworks.org)
8. By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school. (attendanceworks.org)
9. Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school, or about 18 days in most school districts, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence. (attendanceworks.org)
10. The academic impact of missing that much school is the same whether the absences are excused or unexcused. Suspensions also add to lost time in the classroom. (attendanceworks.org)
11. Low-income students are four times more likely to be chronically absent than others often for reasons beyond their control, such as unstable housing, unreliable transportation and a lack of access to health care. (attendanceworks.org)
12. When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating. (attendanceworks.org)
13. Attendance improves when schools engage students and parents in positive ways and when schools provide mentors for chronically absent students. (attendanceworks.org)
14. Your school is working to track why students are absent or tardy to be able to address any barriers. Please let them know why your child is absent or tardy or if there is anything we can do to help!