



The Power of Showing Up

School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

Is your student missing a day or two of school each month?

You might ask, “What’s the big deal?” Unfortunately, those days add up quickly and soon turn into **chronic absences**. Studies show that missing 10 percent of the school year for any reason — excused or unexcused — can leave students unable to master critical reading skills. Our nation is currently facing a crisis in literacy with two thirds of the country’s fourth graders unable to read at a proficient level.ⁱ

An analysis of the nation’s public school attendance found that chronic absences in early elementary are linked to low achievement in 5th grade. Once students reach 6th grade, high numbers of absences begin to predict high school dropout rates.ⁱⁱ

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- In addition, being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. It’s never too late to begin building this habit. Going to school on time, every day is important and good attendance will help your child do well in high school, college, and beyond.

When is missing school a problem?



When a student is absent for 10% of the year, it boils down to about 18 days. **That’s about two days each month!**

It’s never too late to start good attendance practices.

When chronically absent students improve their attendance, they can get back on track academically. Studies show that students with the weakest reading skills make the greatest gains when attending school regularly. ⁱⁱⁱ

i. *Early Reading Proficiency in the United States*, KIDS COUNT, Annie E. Casey Foundation, January 2014
ii. Chang, Hedy N., Romero, Mariajose, *Present, Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absences in Early Grades*, National Center for Children in Poverty, September 2008
iii. Conolly & Olson