



Attendance Information for Parents/ Guardians

- Preschool is a great time to start building a habit of regular attendance.
- Absences can add up quickly, and adults often underestimate the number.
- Attendance is not just about unexcused absences (excused absences count too).
- A student who misses 10% of school days is considered *chronically absent*.
- Regular attendance matters in every grade, including Kindergarten. In fact, Kindergarten typically has the highest rate of chronic absenteeism of any grade in elementary school.
- Students who are chronically absent in Kindergarten and/or 1st Grade are less likely to be reading at grade level by 3rd grade.
- There is a high correlation between chronic absenteeism in elementary and middle school, and students who drop out of high school.
- A student who is absent 2 days every month, regardless of the reasons, will be chronically absent by the end of the school year.
- Know the schoolwide chronic absentee rate, because too many absences can slow down instruction for all students.
- If you are facing tough challenges regarding access to health care, unstable housing, poor transportation, or lack of food, let someone in the school know, so supports can be identified, and offered.