

Every Student, Every Day:

A National Initiative to Address and Eliminate Chronic Absenteeism

Community Action Guide to Eliminate Chronic Absenteeism for

PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Why Chronic Absenteeism Matters for Parents and Families

Your child's daily, on-time attendance in school is critical to his or her success in school and in life. It's understandable that some challenges to your child's school attendance are unavoidable, such as an illness or a family emergency. However, it's important to understand the impact of absences from school, especially if they become frequent. *Chronic absenteeism*, typically defined as missing 10 percent (18 days) or more of a school year – as few as a couple of days per month – can cause your child to fall behind in school. Absences can add up and impact your child's reading, writing, and math skills, which will have a negative effect on his or her future.

Did You Know?

- Chronic absenteeism means missing 10% or more of school days in a year.
- 5 to 7.5 million students are chronically absent each year.
- Students who are chronically absent are less likely to succeed academically and more likely to drop out of school.
- Attending school everyday increases a child's chances of success in school and in life.

While chronic absenteeism can be especially harmful to children in preschool and kindergarten, you also should know that any student who is chronically absent at any grade level is less likely to graduate high school or go on to succeed in college.

Families are their children's first, most important, and longest lasting teachers, advocates, and nurturers. Take the following action steps so that your children can develop a more positive attitude toward school, stay in school longer, have better attendance, and an overall rewarding school experience.

Did You Know?

A student is chronically absent if he or she misses as few as two days of school a month.

2 DAYS A MONTH x 9 MONTHS = CHRONIC ABSENCE