Everybody Every Day—Attendance Matters!

• Volusia County Schools’ focus is on reducing chronic absenteeism, which is defined as missing 10 percent of school days for any reason, whether excused or unexcused absences, including out-of-school suspensions.

• Research shows that chronic absenteeism is a primary cause of low academic achievement and a powerful predictor that students will eventually drop out of school.

• Poor attendance in the first month of school can predict chronic absence for the entire year.

• Absenteeism in...
  ...preschool and kindergarten can influence whether a child will be held back in third grade.
  ...kindergarten can affect whether a child develops the grit and perseverance needed to succeed in school.
  ...middle and high school can predict dropout rates.

• Absenteeism influences not just chances for graduating but also for completing college.

• Students who are exhibiting a pattern of non-attendance must be referred to the Child Study Team for assistance with the remediation of the problem. A meeting with the parent must be scheduled to identify potential remedies.

  • Early intervention in school attendance is the most effective way of producing good attendance habits that will lead to improved student learning and achievement.

  • Refer to the district’s Student Attendance Policy 206 for attendance procedures.