

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

When do absences become a problem?

## Absences Add UP

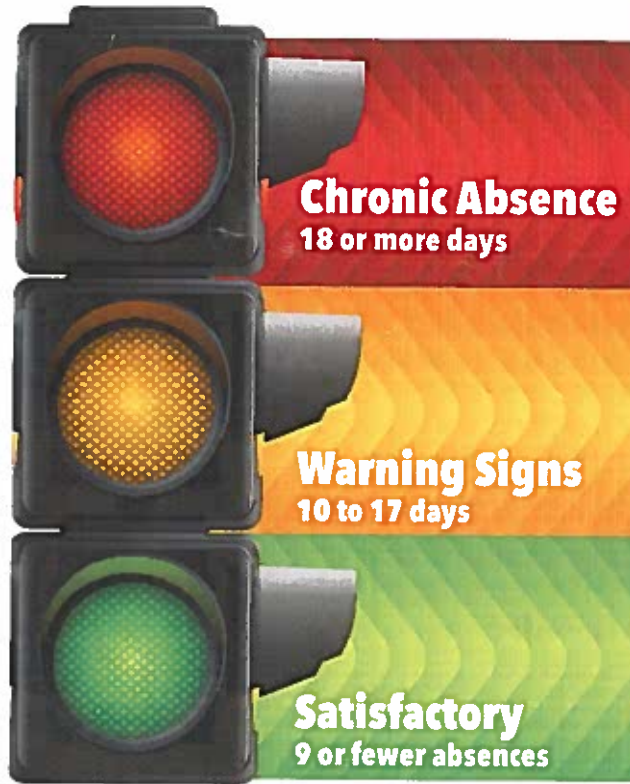
1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much but ...

If your child misses...	That Equals ...	Which is ...	And Over 13 years of Schooling that's...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Over 8 years

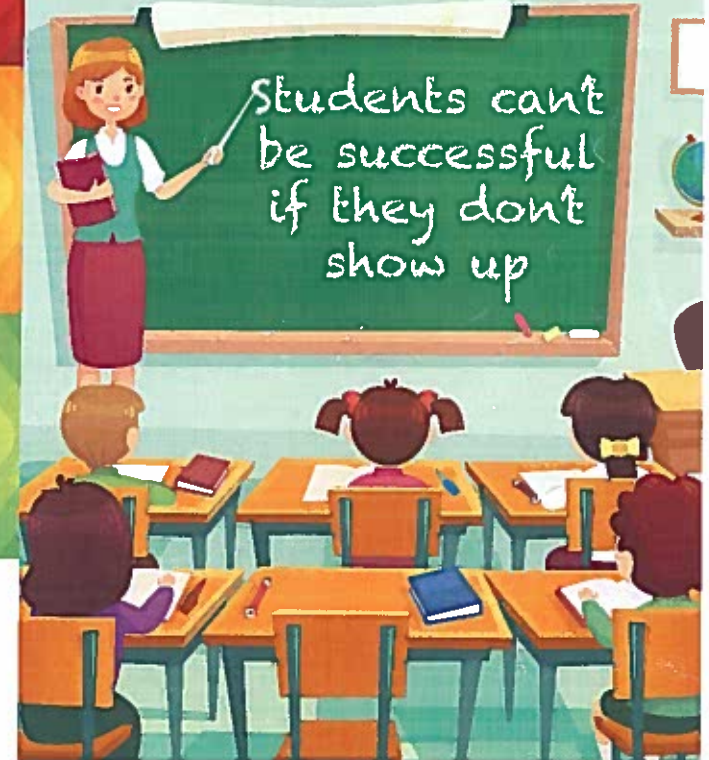
How about 10 minutes late a day?  
Surely that won't affect my child?

S/he is only missing just...	That Equals ...	Which is ...	And Over 13 years of Schooling that's...
10 mins per day	50 mins per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly half a year
20 mins per day	1.6 hours per week	Nearly 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 mins per day	.5 day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years

## EVERY DAY COUNTS



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS



If you are struggling to get your child to school regularly, please contact :

**Caitlin Williams**  
Attendance Officer and Homeless Programs Coordinator  
Jackson County Intermediate School District  
caitlin.williams@jcisd.org  
517-768-5264



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

There are 180 days in the school year calendar. Attendance matters because it can have a significant impact on your child's success. Attending school regularly helps them learn about personal responsibility and commitment, and ensures they don't miss out on educational opportunities that could put them behind their peers academically.

## The Facts

An estimated 5 - 7.5 million students in the U.S. are chronically absent from school.

For every ONE missed day of school, it takes a student TWO days to catch up.

Chronic absenteeism at a young age may prevent children from reaching early learning milestones, like basic math skills and learning to read by 3rd grade.

By middle and high school, irregular attendance is a better predictor than test scores that a student will drop out.

Frequent absences in school can have a negative impact on adulthood, including poverty, poor health and involvement in the criminal justice system.

## Notify the School

Be sure you know what your school considers excused and unexcused absences, as well as what documentation is needed. Here are some examples:

### EXCUSED

- Student illness/injury with doctor's note
- Medical appointments
- Religious holidays
- Extreme family emergencies
- Funeral/death in family
- Lice (3 days)
- Mandated court appearances (documented)

vs.

### UNEXCUSED

- Staying home to babysit
- Overslept/missed bus/transportation
- Travel
- Weather
- Illness without proper documentation
- Willful truancy (skipping)
- Parent illness/injury

## Criminal Consequences

You could be held accountable for your child's excessive absences. According to Michigan law, parents/guardians can be fined or jailed if a child has 10 or more unexcused absences.

Students could also end up behind bars later in life. Absence from school in the early grades is often the first warning of criminal misconduct.



## Make it a Priority



Talk to your child about the importance of showing up to school every day.

Set a routine that includes a regular bedtime, laying out clothes and packing backpacks the night before.

Avoid scheduling appointments during the school day and vacations that fall outside school breaks.

Have a backup plan for getting your child to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, friend, neighbor or another parent to help out.

Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick. Be aware that frequent complaints of headaches or stomach aches could be signs of anxiety and reach out to your child's teacher or counselor for advice.