

Why Does ATTENDANCE Matter?

Facts:

- Regular attendance is correlated with higher achievement rates.
- Regular attendance allows students to stay on grade level, keep up with work, and understand assignments.
- Being at school opens up students to new opportunities to learn academic as well as social skills.
- Attendance helps kids feel connected to their school community.
- Regular attendance sends a message that education is important.

Parental Involvement:

- It is important to take an active role in your kid's lives. Checking homework, talking about school and making education seem important all lead to good attendance and school success.
- Help your student get to school on time every single day by creating a morning routine and sticking to it.
- Absences affect the whole classroom. Teachers have to change their pacing to catch up absent students. Students who miss a lot of days fall behind which affects their confidence levels and how they feel about school.
- If an absence is absolutely necessary, make sure you contact the school to ensure the absence is excused and help your child to catch back up.

Routines Make the Difference:

WHAT YOU CAN DO • Set a regular bed time. • Create a solid morning routine. • Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before. • Get an alarm clock for yourself and your child. • Wake up with plenty of time to have a stress free morning. • Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. • Complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home. • If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning. • Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent. • Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session. • Make school and education seem of utmost importance to your child.