



When it comes to attendance: **EVERY DAY MATTERS!** Keep your middle school child on track for success.

The research is clear: Showing up for school has a huge impact on a learner's academic success. Families play a key role in making sure children get to school every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job, even as they grow older and more independent.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Learners who miss school no more than 2 days/month tend to stay engaged, successful, and on track to graduation.
- Frequent absences can be a sign that your child is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully, or facing some other difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a learner may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10%, or 2 days a month, over the course of the school year, can affect a learner's academic success.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Make school attendance a priority

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day.
- Help your children maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and non-urgent related medical appointments during the school day.
- Keep your child healthy. If you are concerned about a contagious illness, call your school or health care provider.
- If your children must stay home because they are sick, make sure they have asked teachers for resources and materials to make up for the missed learning time in the classroom.

Help your teen stay engaged

- Find out if your children feel engaged by their teachers and coursework, as well as feel safe from bullies and other threats.
- Make sure your teens are not missing class because of challenges with behavioral or school discipline issues. If any of these are problems, contact the school administration and work with them to find a solution.
- Monitor your teen's academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors when necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while learners without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage your child to join meaningful after-school activities, athletics, and clubs.
- Support your child if you notice signs of anxiety, and if needed, seek advice from your school or health provider.

Communicate with the school

- Know the school's attendance policy.
- Check on your child's attendance to make sure absences are not adding up.
- Seek help from school staff, other parents, or community agencies if you need support.

2024-2025



On Time, In School, Every Day!

sd25.us/everydaymatters