

# Attendance Matters!

## At Greenwood Elementary School

Too many absences – excused or unexcused – can keep students from succeeding in school and life. **How many are too many?** 10% of the school year – That's 18 missed school days or 2 per month – can knock students off track.

### What constitutes a full day of school?

The New Jersey Department of Education recognizes a student having been present for **4 hours of instruction** as having been present for the day.

### **So what happens if my child arrives late to school?**

If a child arrives late to school, they must arrive prior to 11:05 am in order to be credited with a full day of attendance.

**(Anyone arriving after 11:05 will be marked with a 1/2 day)**

### **So what happens if my child leaves school early?**

If a child leaves early from school, they must leave no earlier than 1:15pm in order to be credited with a full day of attendance.

**(Anyone leaving before 1:15pm will be marked with a 1/2 day)**

### **Excused vs Unexcused Absences**

The New Jersey Department of Education recognizes two allowable reasons for absence from Elementary School:

1. **A recognized religious observance**
2. **Take Your Child to Work Day (in April)**

Therefore, any other absences for the purposes of defining Chronic Absenteeism are not recognized by the NJDOE, including sickness or doctor visits.

### **Wait, what about a one-session day with 1:15pm dismissal?**

A student who arrives late or leaves early on a 1:15pm dismissal day is not credited with a day of school. The student is marked absent for the day if arriving after 9:05 am or leaving before 1:15pm.

**(There are no ½ days on a 1:15pm dismissal day!)**

### **Who Can Read on Grade Level after 3rd Grade?**

**49%** of students with good attendance in 1st and 2nd (missed 9 or fewer days both years)

**65%** of students with at-risk attendance (missed more than 9 days both years)

**55%** of students chronically absent in Kdg and 1st (missed more than 18 days both years)