



CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM AND TRUANCY

DEBUNKED

WHAT IS CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM?

A child is placed on the chronic absenteeism list when he/she has missed 10% or more of accrued school days. For example, if your child misses 1 day during the first ten days, he/she would be removed from the chronic absenteeism list on the 11th day of school. Because there are only 180 days of school, 18 absences or more (for any reason) would leave a child on the chronic absenteeism list for the year. This includes excused absences, unexcused absences, and suspensions. According to the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee, "Good Attendance" is defined as being present for 95% or more of the year (or missing no more than 8 days of school in a given year).

DID YOU KNOW?

This is the "new" attendance measure by which our schools receive a rating on our state school report cards.

Why Attendance Matters!

- Frequent Kinder absences = lower cognitive skills in early childhood
- Sense of belonging
- Increased dropout risk
- Poorer academic performance by age 15
- Self-management skills
- Self-efficacy skills



SCHEDULE WELL-VISITS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS AFTER SCHOOL, IF POSSIBLE.



IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT, BRING A SIGNED, HANDWRITTEN NOTE OR LEGAL DOCUMENT TO SCHOOL. EXAMPLES: DOCTOR'S EXCUSE, SICK NOTE, DEATH IN THE FAMILY, ETC.



SCHEDULE TRIPS/VACATIONS DURING REGULARLY SCHEDULED SCHOOL BREAKS.

WHAT IS TRUANCY?

Based on SC state law, a child is considered "truant" when he/she is 6 or older (or turns 6 during the school year) and has had 3 unexcused absences in a row or 5 unexcused absences total. Your child can be removed from the truancy list by turning in medical or legal documentation for their absences within 3 days of the absence. If there was no medical or legal reason for the absence, they would remain truant for the rest of the school year. A parent note does not count!

DID YOU KNOW?

If your child is here 55% of the day, they are considered present.

DID YOU KNOW?

Having your child use an alarm clock (not a phone), provides benefits such as improved time management, schedule adherence, and reduced stress.

