

Ready, Set...Kindergarten!

Attendance Matters

Attendance in the early years of school is important for supporting student growth. Children who miss more than two days a month in kindergarten and first grade struggle to build reading skills to support later learning. Let's work together to build a love of learning early!

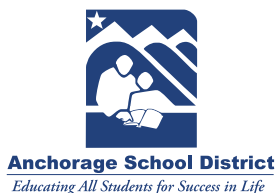
Reach out to your child's school to learn about the Alaska Reads Act.

What is chronic absenteeism?

- ▶ Chronic absenteeism is missing 10% of the school year. In the Anchorage School District that equals out to:
 - 17 school days in a school year
 - Families should strive to miss less than 2 days a month
- ▶ Chronic absenteeism includes both unexcused and excused absences.
 - Excused absences are those times a student needs to miss due to: sickness, medical appointments, family emergency, religious services and situations agreed on by the family and principal to be considered extenuating circumstances.
 - Unexcused absences include and are not limited to: family vacations, non-school related extra curricular activities and "no-shows."
 - Anytime students are not in class learning, they are missing instruction. Each day of learning builds on the day prior so any time a child is not in class can impact how they are understanding new information.

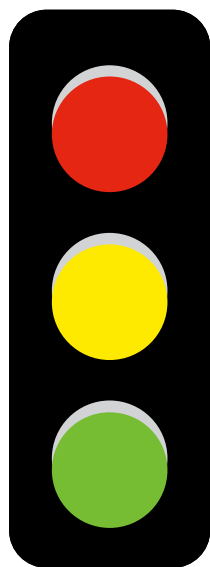
Strategies for supporting regular attendance and partnering when absences are necessary

- Communicate with the school if your child is going to be absent. You can inform them by calling the school or going on Q ParentConnection to mark them absent.
- Use the tracker on this sheet to mark each day missed.
- Talk with your child's school if they are going to miss 5 or more days in a row.
- Talk to your child about your thoughts and feelings around the importance of attending school every day.



Ready, Set...Kindergarten!

Harvard Professor Todd Rodgers completed a study finding that families underestimate their children's absences by about half each year. This makes sense because life is busy and it's hard to remember things that happened in prior months. Use this tracker to help you keep track. Consider involving your child in the process to help guide conversations around the importance of attendance.



RED — Your child is now considered chronically absent with more than 10% absences during the semester. Please schedule a meeting with your child's teacher to come up with a plan.
(9 or more absences per semester)

YELLOW — Your child is now at risk with 5–10% absences during the semester. It's time to come up with a family plan.
(5–8 absences per semester)

We miss your child when they're not here.

GREEN — Your child is under 5% absences so far this semester! You're doing great, keep it up!
(4 or less absences per semester)



Child's Name: _____

Best way to avoid more absences is to keep track!

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

Hang on your fridge to track absences throughout the year. We want to help families help their children get to school each and every day! Please feel free to contact us at _____ if we can be of any help.

