

APS EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

August 2026

Welcome to the Community Learning Center!

Dear Families/Caregivers:

Welcome back to another amazing school year. We are looking forward to seeing you at our Home Visits and Open House. These multiple opportunities for your children to meet their teachers is so important as we begin to build strong connections between our staff and your children and you!

We have lots of amazing things planned for the year and this newsletter is one of the ways we will communicate with you. Your teachers will also use SeeSaw to communicate, in addition to phone calls, emails and texts using Talking Points. Please also follow our Facebook page for pictures and updates. And as always, please reach out to schedule in person meetings for any questions you might have about your child's experience at school.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Lawhead
Austin Public Schools
Community Education Director

School Bond Referendum November 3

The school board took action Monday night to place a $24.9 million referendum on the November 3 ballot. The funding will allow the District to improve safety, increase accessibility, mitigate water infiltration, update building systems and finishes, and complete needed repairs to keep the pool at Ellis Middle School operational. Information about the referendum can be found on the District's website at www.austin.k12.mn.us.

Strategic Priorities Update

1. Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.

Austin Public Schools is now using @talkingpts to communicate with families directly via text message! This tool will allow all families to receive messages in their home language instantly. 🙌 With Talking Points, families can:

- Send teachers a message via direct text message
- Communicate in over 150 home languages thanks to automated translation
- Utilize the free Talking Points app to manage communication with all of your children's teachers

FAMILIES | TalkingPoints App - App Store (**https://apps.apple.com/us/app/families-talkingpoints/id1320244591**)
FAMILIES | TalkingPoints - Apps on Google Play (**https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.talkingpoints.parents&hl=en-US**)



Drills



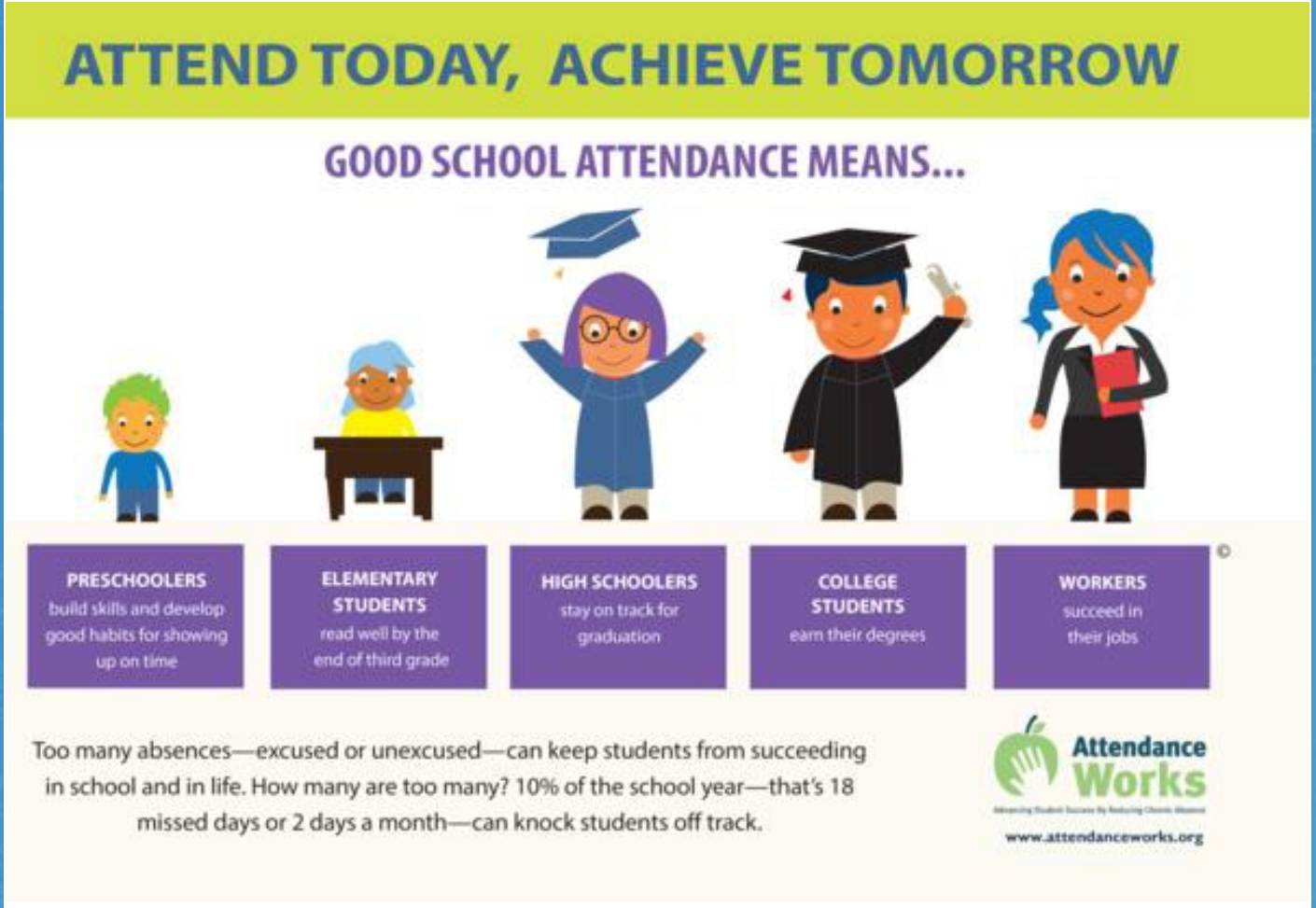
As part of our commitment to student safety, our school will be conducting **lockdown drills** on the following dates:

- **November 12, 2026**
- **February 25, 2027**

This is a safety exercise that helps students and staff learn how to respond calmly and quickly in the unlikely event of a potential danger inside or near the school. In accordance with state guidelines, we are notifying all families in advance. Parents and guardians have the right to opt their child out of participating in these drills. If you prefer your child not participate, please contact the school office at 507.460. 1700 at least 24 hours before the scheduled drill.

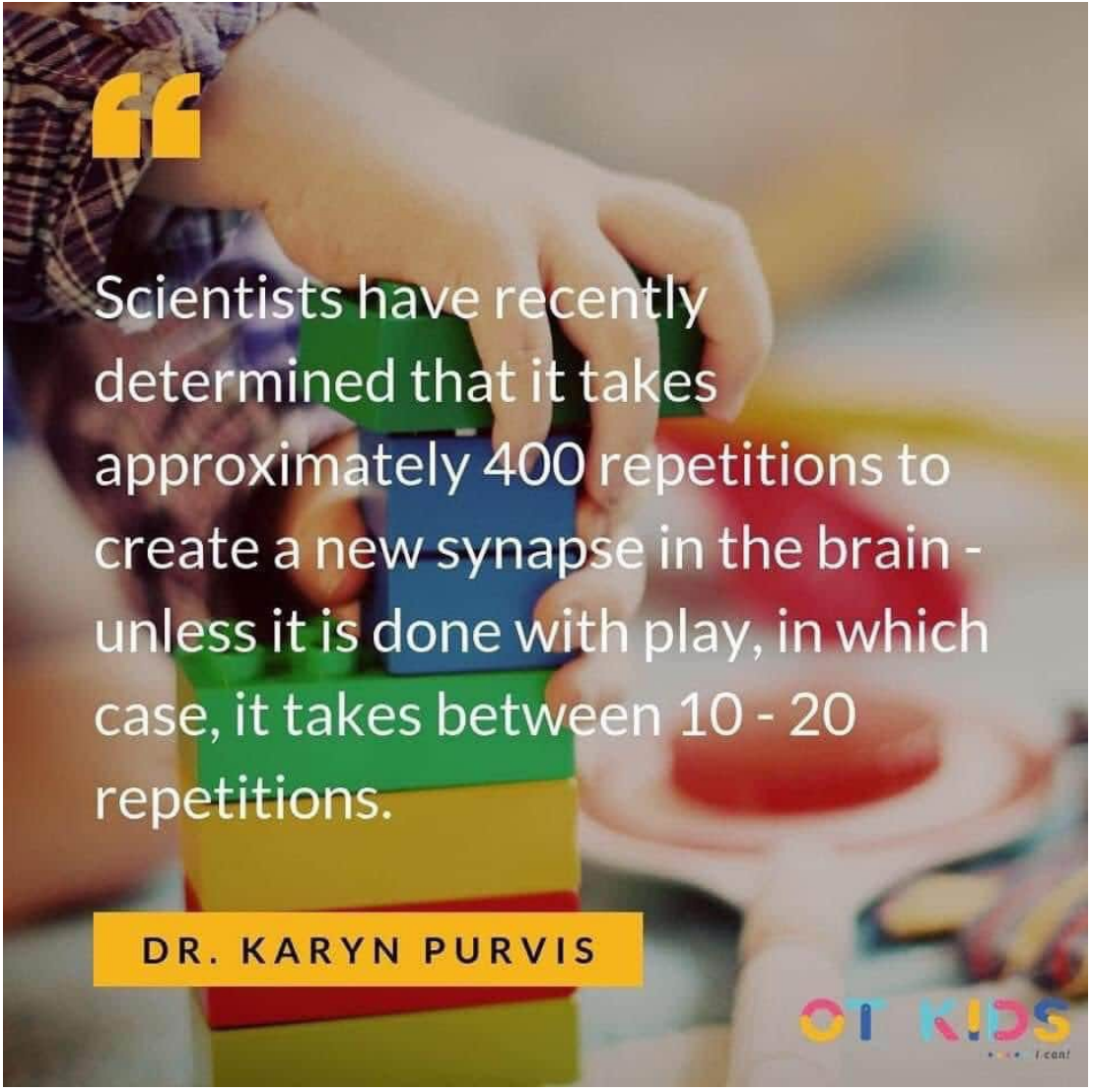
Preschool Attendance Matters

Regular attendance in preschool is essential because it builds a strong foundation for learning, social development, and emotional growth. Consistent participation helps children develop routines, build relationships, and gain the skills they need for future academic success.



2. Packer Profile for all learners

Your children will be learning through play this year. As part of that learning they will be exploring potential career areas through play with toys and dramatic play. Look for opportunities to explore through play with your children at home!



3. District-wide multi-tiered systems of support.

MTSS is a framework schools use to make sure every student gets the right level of help to succeed—academically, socially, and emotionally.

Curriculum Information

Our students will do a lot of learning this year. They will develop their social emotional skills by learning how to be a friend. They will learn about language through enjoying books, songs, and conversations with adults and classmates. They will learn about math and numbers by building, creating, and playing games. Each month in our newsletter you will see the essential question for each unit of study, key vocabulary words, and songs we are singing at school. Please talk, read, and sing with your children at home!



4. Excellence in resource management.

The school district will supply all necessary school supplies this year. Please provide a backpack for your children and send them to school in shoes that they can run and play in at the gym. There is also a $5 school activity fee that you can pay through the parent portal or in the school office.

To learn more about the Packer Profile and the district's long-term strategic plan, please visit AccelerateAustin.org.

Know

Important Dates



August 12-13, 2026
Early Childhood Screening for all new students

August 19-21, 2026
Home visits for all preschool students

August 24, 2026
Open House 10-1 and 3-6
School Pictures during Open House

August 26, 2026
First day of preschool

Attendance Information

Please click link to read more about new attendance practices in Austin.
Campus Parent - Absence Request

Do

Please let us know how we can be of service to your family. Call, email, or stop by and let us know how we can serve you better.

Share

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Log in or sign up to view

See posts, photos and more on Facebook.

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Community Learning Center

1601 4th Street SE
Austin, MN 55912
507-460-1400