ATTENDANCE: MISSING SCHOOL MATTERS!

NWES—AUGUST 16, 2019
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WWW.ATTENDANCEWORKS.ORG
TODAY’S LEARNING GOALS

• How many days absent puts your child at risk of being chronically absent?
• What is the impact on a child’s education now and in the future.
• Why coming to school on time is important.
• What you can do to help your child keep their attendance rate high.
Raise Your Child's Attendance, -Raise their Chances!

What does "Good attendance" mean?

- Do you know what your child's attendance is?
- Do you know what it means?
This is Simon. He is in Year 7 and has 90% attendance.

- Is that good?
- What does this mean?
Simon thinks this is pretty good, so do his parents. Are they right?

90% attendance = $\frac{1}{2}$ day missed
every week!!

(Would your boss like you to be off work this much??). That’s practically part time!

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Absent half a day every week
This image shows a diagram illustrating the impact of missed school days on a school year. It states:

"1 school year at 90% attendance = 4 whole weeks of lessons MISSED!!!"

The diagram indicates that out of the 38 school weeks, there are 4 weeks where the student was absent.

Absent for 4 weeks
90% attendance over 5 years of secondary school....

= \( \frac{1}{2} \) a school year missed!

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\( \frac{1}{2} \) a year absent from school
Studies show weakened reading and math skills, which frequently leads to academic trouble and an increase in high school drop out rates.

The greater the attendance the greater the achievement.
So **90%** is **not** as good as it first seemed.

What can **I** do as a parent to increase my child's attendance?
Ways for parents to encourage attendance:

1. Find out **regularly** your child's **absence**. (Ask for half days if easier) and check this matches with your **own record**.

2. **Talk** regularly with your child about school and how they feel about it. More likely to attend if they feel supported and **listened to**.
Ways for parents to encourage attendance:

3. **Phone** us as soon as possible to tell us why your child is absent, and when you expect them to return. Putting the school number in your phone can save you time. Know the school routine for alerting you to absence.

4. Only grant days at home for **genuine** illness. (you will know!!)

5. **Avoid** taking holidays in school time.
Other tips to help secure good attendance:

1. If there is a **problem** with your child’s attendance, **talk calmly** to your child and **listen** to the **explanation**. There is **always** an explanation. It may not impress you, but it counted enough with your child to make them truant. Pursuing the **reason** for non attendance is **important**.

2. Talk to us to **resolve** issues. We maybe able to help and support you and your child. You are **not alone**.
WHEN YOUR CHILD DOES NOT COME TO SCHOOL, THEY ARE MISSING OUT ON:

• Building reading and math skills
• Having more chances to practice new skills
• Feeling prepared for class every day
• Feeling prepared for the next school year
Final Thoughts

• U.S. Department of Education       Published on Apr 10, 2018

• As early as elementary school, students who miss just two school days each month are more likely to fall behind in reading, writing and math, even if the absences are excused. While some challenges to a child’s attendance are unavoidable, it’s important to understand the impact of each absence.
• A student is chronically absent if he or she misses only two days of school per month (18 days per year). Even one year of chronic absence can cause a child to fall behind academically and decrease a child’s chances of graduating from high school, which can have long-term consequences on their financial independence, physical well-being and mental health.

• Parents can prepare their children for a lifetime of success by making regular school attendance a priority and understanding the reasons for their child’s absences. Learn more and find help at http://www.AbsencesAddUp.org.
This year at NWES we are focusing on increasing attendance. We will be having a school wide competition between classrooms. Each month the class with the highest attendance percentage will get bragging rights and a trophy in their room for the entire next month! Students will also receive a small token treat (pencil, eraser, etc).