

Cassadaga Valley Central School District

Why Attendance Is So Important

October 2022

“Attend Today...Achieve Tomorrow”

-Attendance Works

Did You Know?

According to Attendance Works...

- Missing 10% or about 2 days each month over the course of the year can make it harder to learn to read
- By 6th grade absenteeism is one of the three signs that a student may dropout of high school
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores
- 9/fewer absences = “satisfactory”
- 10-17 absences = warning signs
- 18 or more absences = chronic absences



ATTENDANCE
in the early grades

Many of our youngest students miss 10 percent of the school year—about 10 days a year or just two days every month. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten, and even pre-K, can predict lower test scores, poor attendance and retention in later grades, especially if the problem persists for more than a year. Do you know how many young children are chronically absent in your school or community?

Who Is Affected
Kindergarten and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom.

1 in 10 kids in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it's as high as 1 in 4!

2 in 10 low-income kids miss too much school. They're also more likely to suffer academically!

2.5 in 10 homeless kids are chronically absent!

4 in 10 transient kids miss too much school when families move!

Why It Matters
If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?

- 54% of kids with good attendance in K and 1st (missed 9 or fewer days both years)
- 49% of kids with at-risk attendance (missed more than 9 days both years)
- 41% of kids chronically absent in K or 1st (missed 10 or more days on year)
- 17% of kids chronically absent in K and 1st (missed 18 or more days both years)

What We Can Do

- Engage Families**
Many parents and students don't realize how quickly early absence can add up to academic trouble. Community members and teachers can educate families and build a culture of attendance through early outreach, incentives and attention to data.
- Fix Transportation**
The lack of a reliable car, or simply missing the school bus, can mean some students don't make it to class. Schools, transit agencies and community partners can organize car pools, supply bus passes or find other ways to get kids to school.
- Address Health Needs**
Health concerns, particularly asthma and dental problems, are among the leading reasons students miss school in the early grades. Schools and medical professionals can work together to give children and families health care and advice.
- Track the Right Data**
Schools too often overlook chronic absence because they track average attendance or unexcused absences, not how many kids miss too many days for any reason. Attendance Works has free data-tracking tools.

There are a few steps that communities and schools can take. How do you think you can help?

To download a copy of this infographic, please visit www.attendanceworks.org.

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Elementary Aged Students

Positive school attendance for young children begins with a positive and predictable routine. This begins the night before. In order to help support students, setting a bedtime/morning routine which includes taking out clothes and packing

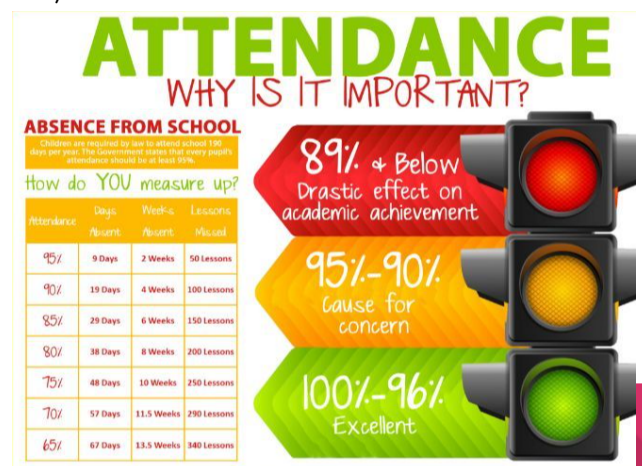
backpacks the night before can reduce chaos in the morning. If anxiety impacts a young child, bus drivers, teachers, school counselors, administration and other school staff can help assist in greeting children at school and checking in to reduce the anxious feelings. If a child is sick and can not attend school, contacting the school to verify that the child is indeed sick and requesting work will keep them in the routine of completing some school related activities. Other activities that can encourage a child to be excited about school include telling the child about your positive experiences in school, engaging in conversation with your child and their teacher, and supporting academic work at home by doing things such as reading books together and reinforcing ideas from school and praising them for having good Days.

Middle/High School Aged Students

As children get older, consistent school attendance may be impacted by more areas than just a solid bedtime/morning routine. Other areas may impact a student in addition to those areas for younger

children such as puberty, defiance, medical diagnoses, mental health diagnoses, bullying, peer influences, specific classes, the list goes on! So, what can you do to reinforce the importance of regular school attendance for these students?

- Make attendance a priority - even on days they are sick make sure they are getting and completing school work
- Help them to stay engaged - reinforce importance of graduation, help them feel safe if safety is a concern, talk to school staff for support and guidance
- Encourage them to engage in after school activities
- Communicate with the school - know our policies and incentives, if you need help with transportation reach out, call with questions on total days missed thus far



Where Can I learn More?

[How to Help Children Succeed in Elem. School](#)

[Attendance Works](#)

[Attendance Newsletters](#)

[Attendance Handouts for Families](#)

[Engaging Teens In Tracking Their Attendance](#)

[Attendance Video's](#)

[Student Success Plans](#)

[Building a Morning Routine](#)

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