

## Why is School Attendance Important?

### Did You Know?

- ▶ Attendance is an important life skill that will help students graduate & retain a job
- ▶ Missing 10%, or about 18 days, of the school year can drastically affect a student's academic success
- ▶ By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of 3 signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- ▶ By 9th grade, regular & high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- ▶ The academic impact of missing that much school is the same whether the absences are excused or unexcused.
- ▶ Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the year.
- ▶ 1 in 10 students in Kindergarten and First grade are chronically absent.
- ▶ 2 in 10 students who live in low-income households are chronically absent.
- ▶ 2.5 in 10 students who are experiencing homelessness are chronically absent.
- ▶ 4 in 10 students who are transient are chronically absent.



## Contacts

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your schools for more information or if you have questions or concerns. We are happy to connect with you to collaborate on ways that we can increase student's and families access to Shawano School District.

### District School Social Workers

Jenna Brooks, Hillcrest Primary  
715-524-2134 ext 5405  
[jbrooks@shawanoschools.org](mailto:jbrooks@shawanoschools.org)

Dani Zurakowski, Olga Brener Intermediate  
715-524-2131 ext. 4106  
[dzurakowski@shawanoschools.org](mailto:dzurakowski@shawanoschools.org)

Jodi Guenther, Shawano Middle School  
715-526-2192 ext. 8158  
[jguenther@shawanoschools.org](mailto:jguenther@shawanoschools.org)

Cora Heindel, Shawano High School  
715-526-2175 ext. 8123  
[cheindel@shawanschools.org](mailto:cheindel@shawanschools.org)

### District School Resource Officers

Tyler Thornborrow, Hillcrest Primary & Shawano High  
715-526-2134  
[tthornborrow@shawanoschools.org](mailto:tthornborrow@shawanoschools.org)

Brandy Hoffman, Olga Brener & Shawano Middle  
715-524-2131  
[bhoffman@shawanoschools.org](mailto:bhoffman@shawanoschools.org)

## Shawano School District

**Attendance Matters**  
**Every student, Every day**



Shawano School District, in collaboration with the Shawano Police Department, is committed to engaging, empowering, and educating every student, every day, and in every way. In order for students to engage in academic learning and personal growth, they must regularly access their education by attending their scheduled classes. Attendance matters. It is an important life skill that goes beyond the classroom.



## What is Shawano School District Doing?

Currently, Shawano School District utilizes a multi-tiered approach for addressing attendance. This includes connecting with the student, connecting with the family, investigating barriers to attendance, and trying to find ways to improve the school experience for students who are not attending regularly.



Unfortunately, even with multiple supports in place, some of our students are still not attending school regularly. This may lead to law enforcement involvement and/or a citation for the student or family.

Wisconsin State Statutes (Ch.118.15) requires that all students attend school regularly during the full period and hours that school is in session.

Shawano School District, in collaboration with the Shawano Police Department and the help of families and the community, is dedicated to finding additional ways to support families and students in attending school.

## What Can We Do?

### Reducing Chronic Absenteeism.... What Will It Take?

Shawano School District is committed too engaging, empowering, and educating every student, every day, and in every way. To do this, we must support the whole student.

### What Is the Whole Child Approach?

The whole child approach focuses on five tenets for success. The child should be:

- ▶ Safe
- ▶ Healthy
- ▶ Engaged
- ▶ Supported
- ▶ Challenged

This goal requires a coordinated effort between the school, families, and the community.



Shawano School District, in conjunction with the Shawano Police Department, is asking for your help. The goal is to increase education, awareness, and collaboration with families and the community as a way to support the whole child and improve access to education by increasing regular school attendance.

## How Can You Help?

As a family member of a Shawano School District Student or community member you can help!

### Know Why Attendance is Important

- ▶ Children who are absent are than 10% of the time do less well in first grade. For some students, the difference is even greater.
- ▶ Chronic absence is the single strongest predictor of dropping out of school before graduation.
- ▶ Absenteeism and its ill effects start early. One in ten kindergarten and first grade students are chronically absent.
- ▶ Talk with the school age youth in your life about why attendance is important and what they can do to engage.

### Know What to Do If Someone Can't Attend

- ▶ Call in your student if they are unable to attend.
- ▶ Each building has their own attendance line, you can call in and leave a voicemail, email your building, or text your building school social worker.

### Connect with Shawano School District

- ▶ Let us know if you are able to join us to talk about ideas to support students and families with attendance and to raise awareness and increase education. We will be hosting regular meetings to enhance a community awareness campaign and to create a task force to address attendance in our district and community.