



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

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STUDENTS NEED TO BE IN CLASS

Students who miss more than ten percent (or just two days every month) of school days in one year are considered chronically absent. Students miss school for a variety of reasons: illness, doctor's appointments, vacations, or skipping classes because of lack of interest or success. Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with schoolwork, dealing with a bully, or facing some other potentially serious difficulty. Regardless of the reason, the effects are real. Once freshmen miss ten percent of school days, their odds of graduating drop below forty percent.

What You Can Do:

- Insist on regular, prompt attendance. Encourage your teen to get involved at school with a club or activity.
- Establish and stick to the basic routines (going to bed early, waking up on time, etc.) that will help your teen develop the habit of on-time attendance.
- Talk to your student about why going to school every day is critical and important unless they are sick. If your teen seems reluctant to go to school, find out why and work with the teacher, administrator, or after school provider to get them excited about going to school.
- Reach out for help if you are experiencing tough times (e.g. transportation, unstable housing, loss of a job, health problems) that make it difficult to get your child to school. Other parents, your child's teacher, principal, social worker, school nurse, after school providers or community agencies can help you problem solve or connect you to a needed resource.

GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs and is a federally-funded program that helps rural, low-income middle and high schools prepare students for education after high school.

College Fact

It is true that many college classes haven't taken attendance in the past.

That is starting to change with increased use of "clicker" technology that polls entire classes, no matter the size. Going to class is critical to learn and review material and ask questions.

Did you know?

A wide range of scholarships are available to Arizona students. Scholarship application processes are competitive. Many are targeted to students based on their interests, desired campus, major, or their background. Students should register on <https://azgrants.az.gov> to be matched to scholarships in AZ. Of the nearly 500 scholarships listed on <https://azgrants.az.gov>, only one out of ten required a GPA higher than 3.0.

Apply it



Student Checklist

- Continue extracurricular activities since admissions officers will look at your extracurricular activities when considering you for admissions.
- Try to make a list about what matters to you in a college (i.e., the location, size, programs or classes they offer, or extracurricular activities like athletics).
- Visit two college websites.

Family Checklist

- Make a college wish list together. Talk with your sophomore about qualities he or she may want in a college in terms of location, size, majors offered and so on. Check out How to Find a College That Fits You to learn more about deciding on college must-haves.



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GEAR UP Right Choices for Youth