

## Tips for parents:

1. Let your children know that you value their education. **Insist that they go to school every day.**
2. **Talk with your child about school.** Is your child struggling with schoolwork, classmates, or other problems? Ask how you can help.
3. **Discuss your concern with your child's teachers.** Ask them to help you with a plan to help your child succeed.

## How can you play a key role in your child's attendance?

### If your child is absent:

- Bring a signed, handwritten note or legal document to your school attendance office within three days.

### If you are planning a trip or appointment when school is in session:

- Please use regularly scheduled breaks for non-academic activities. **It is important to the school and its staff that your child is present every day.** Even a partial day absence disrupts the learning environment for your student and others.

### If your child has special circumstances that you are concerned about:

- Contact your school to learn more about assessments, services, or community resources that may be available for your student.

Department of Alternative Programs and Services

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# Encouraging Attendance at Home:

## A Guide for Parents



## EDUCATION THRIVES

## WHEN YOU KEEP IT UNDER 5

Keep absences to fewer than five during the school year for optimal learning.

Charleston >excellence is our standard  
County SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Why does attendance matter?

### Elementary School

Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school. Parents can set positive habits early to prevent attendance issues later on.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?<sup>3</sup>



64%  
of kids with good attendance in K and 1st  
(missed 9 or fewer days both years)



43%  
of kids with at-risk attendance  
(missed more than 9 days both years)



41%  
of kids chronically absent in K or 1st  
(missed 18 or more days one year)



17%  
of kids chronically absent in K and 1st  
(missed 18 or more days both years)

\*AttendanceWorks.org

### Middle & High School

Students who attend school every day and on time are more likely to achieve good grades, score highly on standardized tests, and graduate from high school.

ATTENDANCE  
=  
SCHOOL SUCCESS

### What is truancy?

A child aged 6-17 is considered truant if they have missed:

- **three unexcused days of school in a row**
- **five unexcused days total**

If your student meets the criteria for truancy, your school will contact you to set up a mandatory conference to help support your child's attendance.

### What is chronic absenteeism?

Any student in grade K-12 who misses **half or more of the school day** for any reason for 10 percent (or more) of the enrollment period.

**Chronic absenteeism** and **truancy** are both associated with **poor academic performance, increased dropout rates and decreased graduation rates.**

### Excused Absences

Absences that are considered to be excused are:

- Absence due to an illness that would endanger his/her health and the health of others
- Absence due to an illness or death in the immediate family
- Absence due to a recognized religious holiday of the student's faith

### Unexcused Absences

Absences that are considered to be unexcused are:

- Absence of a student without the knowledge of his/her parents or legal guardians
- Absence of a student without acceptable cause with the knowledge of his/her parents or legal guardians

Contact your school if you need support with your child's attendance.