

Start the school year with a focus on attendance!

Research shows that chronic absenteeism (missing 15 or more days in a school year) damages academic success. Unfortunately, more than seven million students across the nation miss three weeks or more each school year.

When students miss school or arrive late, everyone suffers. Teachers spend time collecting makeup work and reteaching. Meanwhile, other students—who are ready to learn—must wait.

Your child's most fundamental school-related responsibility is to get to school on time every day. To support your child:

- Stick to a schedule. Establish evening and morning habits that help your child be prepared. For example, select outfits and pack lunches at night.
- Schedule carefully. Make medical and other appointments during non-school hours when possible. School should be a priority when planning family trips, too. If your child must be absent, work with her teacher to help your child complete makeup work.
- Seek help when needed. Many problems contribute to missing school. If your family struggles with health, transportation, work, child care or other issues, talk with school staff. Our shared goal is to help children get to school and do their best.

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