

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Missing Just 2 Days Per Month Can Affect Your Academic Success!

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Attendance matters! Daily attendance and engagement in learning is essential to student success at all grade levels. Colorado law directly connected to attendance focuses on compulsory school attendance, truancy and school finance. Important student attendance definition of rates and terms include:

- Truancy: Truancy is defined as an unexcused absence. The rate is calculated by dividing the reported Total Student Days Unexcused Absences by the Total Student Days Possible.
- Habitually Truant (Student Count): A student is counted as habitually truant if the student has four unexcused absences in one month and/or 10 absences in one school year.
- Chronically Absent: A student absent 10 percent or more of the days enrolled during the school year is chronically absent. All absences are included – unexcused, excused and suspensions. The rate is the percentage of students enrolled who are chronically absent.

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM:

Attendance is important at all levels within the K-12 education system. For preschool, students with good attendance develop skills and good attendance

habits to prepare for kindergarten. By third grade, children who missed too much of kindergarten and 1st grade fall behind in reading. Chronic absenteeism in middle school is a warning sign that students are on a path to disengagement and dropping out. In ninth grade, attendance is a clear predictor, more than test scores that a student will leave before completing high school.

Improving school attendance and addressing chronic absenteeism aligns with Colorado Department of Education (CDE) mission and **strategic plan**. In Colorado in 2021-22, 1 in 3 students was chronically absent.

WHAT YOU CAN DO AS A PARENT:

- Talk to your child about why going to school daily is critical and essential unless they are sick. If your child seems reluctant to go to school, find out why and work with the teacher or school to find ways to create excitement about going to school.
- Establish and stick to the basic routines (going to bed early, waking up on time, etc.) that will help your child develop the habit of on-time attendance.
- Come up with backup plans for who to turn to (another family member, a neighbor, or fellow parents) to help you get your child to school if something arises.
- Avoid extended vacations that require children to miss school. Try to schedule vacations with the school calendar. The same goes for doctor's appointments.