

Every Day Counts



For Student Success

Student success starts with good attendance. The U.S. Department of Education reports that for every missed day of school, it takes a student two days to catch up since he/she must make up missed learning *and* catch up with new learning at the same time.

Regular attendance has been linked to higher achievement, stronger bonds to the school and community, lower rates of delinquent and high risk behavior, and increased participation in higher education.

Parents have a vital role in ensuring and promoting regular attendance at school. **Regular attendance is necessary for success in school,** and as a parent you are the key person who can make a difference

Parents can help their children be successful by encouraging regular attendance.

- Arrive to school and class on time.
- Try to schedule doctor appointments for your child after school hours.
- Allow your child to stay home only when he/she has a contagious illness or is too sick to be comfortable at school.

IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR ATTENDANCE

The likelihood of success in learning is strongly linked to regular attendance and appropriate participation in educational programs.

It is crucial that children and students develop habits of regular attendance at an early age, even from the time they are enrolled in a preschool setting.

Children and students who have poor patterns of attendance are at risk of not achieving their educational, social or psychological potential and are disadvantaged in the quality of choices they are able to make in later life situations. These learners may:

- be socially isolated
- place themselves at risk of harm during times of absence
- be more likely to be involved in socially unacceptable and/or illegal activities
- have gaps in their knowledge and understanding of basic concepts
- feel insecure in the preschool or school environment
- be more likely to leave school early
- be over-represented in the juvenile justice system
- be the victims of bullying and harassment.

Benefits of regular attendance for students

- Getting the maximum benefit from school will optimize your life choices.
- Attending school regularly will develop skills and attitudes that will help you to be successful in later life. These include self-discipline, punctuality, being organized and sticking to routines.
- Regular attendance leads to an increased likelihood of being successful at school.
- Attending regularly leads to making friends and learning to maintain relationships over a length of time.
- You will learn social skills necessary to live and work successfully with others.
- You are safer at school than on the streets.
- People will be more positive about you if you have a good attendance record.
- Attending school provides opportunities for socializing with your friends.
- The more you attend, the more you learn, and this will probably mean you will like school more.

Benefits of regular student attendance for parents/caregivers

- By encouraging regular attendance you will know that you have positively influenced your child's education.
 - You will know that your child is safe at school and not at risk elsewhere.
 - You will know that your children are learning more appropriate things than if they were truanting.
 - Regular attendance by your child will ensure that you have fewer contacts with government agencies.
 - You will have peace of mind in knowing that children who attend school regularly are less likely to break the law and go to jail in later life.
 - You will enjoy more structured family routines.
 - Your child is more likely to finish year 12 and have broader opportunities.
 - You will avoid a legal action due to your child's poor attendance at school.
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Why school attendance is important

Attending school on a regular basis is the key to children doing well at school, and sets them up with good habits for later life and the working world. It also gives children the opportunity to:

- make lots of friends and feel included
- learn new things and develop their skills
- increase their confidence and self esteem
- improve their social skills
- be part of a school team or club
- improve their career prospects
- achieve their potential and fulfill their aspirations

Getting your child into the habit of attending school regularly has a huge impact – not just on their education but also their ability to make friends and on their long term job prospects.

Benefits of regular student attendance for the community

- As a member of the community, you will have contributed to the next generation of community leaders.
- As a community, you have an opportunity to work in partnership with schools to achieve a shared goal.
- You will be supporting young people in being less likely to be involved in crime.
- You will be helping to ensure that young people are spending their days safely.
- The community as a whole will experience less cost, both financially and socially.
- Regular attendance by students will promote an increased level of safety for all.