



ATTENDANCE SUPPORT SERVICES

Effective Strategies For ATTENDANCE & TRUANCY

2024-2025

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Compulsory Attendance Education

Attend Today!



Florida law requires all children six (6) to sixteen (16) years of age to attend school regularly during the entire school year.

Students who have reached the age sixteen (16) years of age and who have not graduated are subject to compulsory school attendance.

Achieve Tomorrow!



The following are district adopted to comply with the Florida Compulsory Attendance Law, Chapter 1003, Section 1003.24, Florida Statutes. Patterns of non-attendance and truancy are identified as early warning signs of academic failure.

#SchoolEveryday



Understanding Major

Important Concepts

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow! #SchoolEveryday



What are Gadsden's compulsory education requirements?



When is a student truant?



What is your obligation to truant students under the law?



No Matter the Difference, Both are Important!

A student is considered “habitual truant” when he/she/they have fifteen (15) unexcused absences within ninety (90) calendar days with or without the knowledge or consent of the student’s parent or legal guardian.

Chronic absence is different from average daily attendance (how many students typically attend school each day) and truancy (missing school without permission).

TRUANCY

Counts only unexcused absences

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Emphasizes compliance with school rules and state laws

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Relies on legal and administrative solutions

CHRONIC ABSENCE

Counts all absences; excused, un-excused, and suspensions

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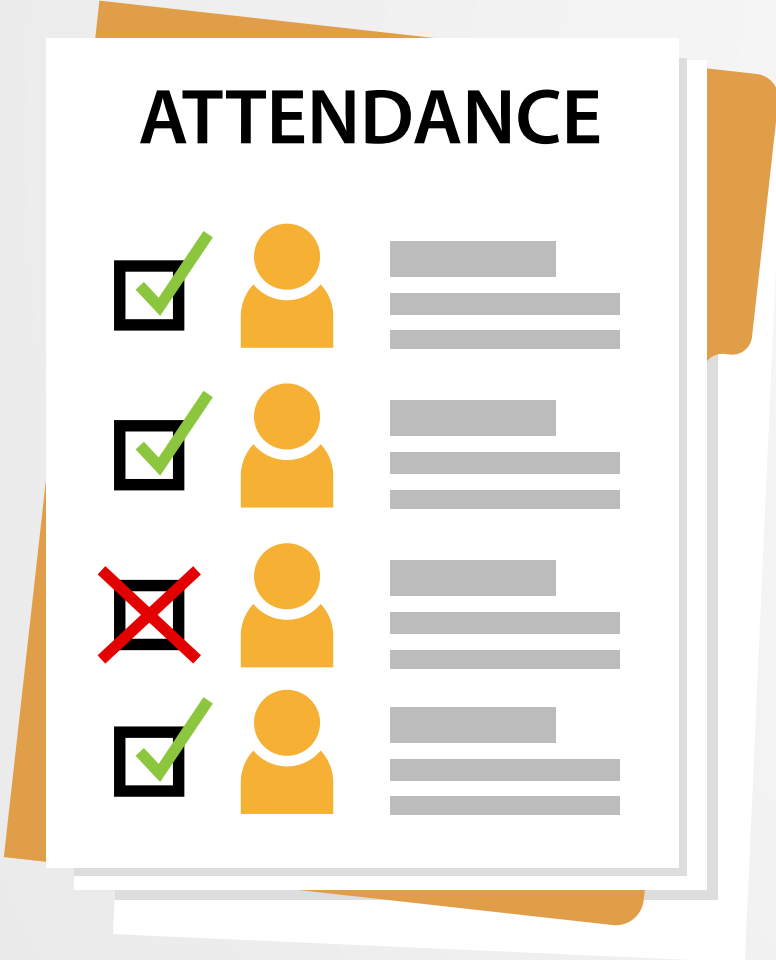
Emphasizes academic impact of missed days

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Uses community-based, positive strategies



Why Good School Attendance Matters?



ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
read well by the end of third grade



MIDDLE SCHOOLERS
pass important courses



HIGH SCHOOLERS
stay on track for graduation



COLLEGE STUDENTS
earn their degrees



WORKERS
succeed in their jobs

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.

Nonattendance Makers

Pursuant to FI Statutes

1003.26(1)(b)

5 Unexcused Absences

Within a calendar month (30/31 days)

10 Unexcused Absences

Within a 90-day calendar period

15 Unexcused Absences

Within a 90-day calendar period

Every Angle Matters!

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Attendance Support Services Procedures



Phase One

Within the first 30 days, parent receives notification through Student Code of Conduct handbook signature, which certifies that the parent/guardian understand the attendance responsibilities.



Phase Two

3 cumulative days of unexcused absences in a 90-day period, the teacher notifies the parent by phone and/or email and records via student documentation in FOCUS.



Phase Three

5 cumulative days of unexcused absences within a 30-day period, Social Worker may schedule parent AIT conference (in-person or via phone), refusals to attend, cancellations, and inability to notify shall be recorded in truancy packet, to develop Student Attendance Contract, pursuant to FL Statutes 10003.26(1) (c) (3) to include Navigate 360 intervention.



Phase Four

10 unexcused absences within a 90-day period, a required parent conference in person, to include a home visit & wellness check. Additionally, there may be an instituted grade lock of a 45% for grades K-12 in FOCUS, as well as possible suspension from extra-curricular activities until improvement shown in attendance. **Forward completed AIT packet to District Truancy Compliance Officer.**

Phase Five:

Tier 3 Reporting



Referrals

AIT may refer students to other agencies for family services or file a truancy petition pursuant to s. 984.151.

Learnfare

Families receiving temporary cash assistance (TCA) could jeopardize benefits of a minor in the home is determined to be habitual truant or a dropout.

FL DMV

Minor drivers may receive a notice of intent to suspend their driving privileges, with 15 days after receipt to provide proof of compliance and compliance must be for 30 days prior to the request of for verification of compliance.

Understanding Major



Root Causes of Chronic Absenteeism



Academic Conditions

Safety Concerns

Social Dynamics



Home Situation

Health Status

School Culture



Student Voice

Parent Voice

Attendance Barriers for Students w/ Disabilities

Attendance Intervention Team



Gradual Improvement

As we to improve chronic absenteeism and truancy problems, the AIT will ensure: frequent attempts of communication between teacher and family; opportunities for mentoring, counseling, and tutoring; possible student schedule modification; and development and implementation of student attendance contract, to include daily/weekly progress monitoring as outlined by team.

Systematic Growth

Important Documents: AIT's Truancy Intervention Referral Form, Student Questionnaire, School Attendance Agreement, Home Visit Form, Nudge Letter and Student Progress Report Form.



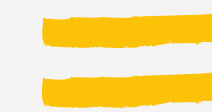
Application & Implementation: Truancy Intervention Plan



School Responsibility



District Support



Collective Growth

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Leading With Empathy

Each Student is Unique!

Have the caregivers been concerned/willing to problem solve, and/or seek solutions to improve attendance?

Has any alternative educational programming been implemented or attempted, if appropriate?

Does the child have any known developmental or other health concerns, that require an IEP or 504 plan?

How has the child's academic performance been this year as compared to previous year(s)?



Sample Nudge Letter

Attendance Matters. You can help!

[Date]

Dear Parent/Guardian of [Student's Name],

As a part of our ongoing efforts to support our students' academic success, we regularly monitor attendance data. We are writing to inform you that your child, [Student's Name], has been absent [Number of Absences] days this school year. Does this seem correct to you? Let's talk about what is causing these absences and how we can help.

Attendance Data for [Student's Name]

- Total School Days: [Total Number of School Days]
- Days Attended: [Number of Days Attended]
- Days Absent: [Number of Days Absent]
- Attendance Rate: [Attendance Rate in Percentage]

As you know, regular attendance is an important component of your child's success academically. Students fall behind when they miss school (both for excused as well as unexcused reasons) and we often hear from parents and guardians that they are unaware of how many absences their student has accumulated.

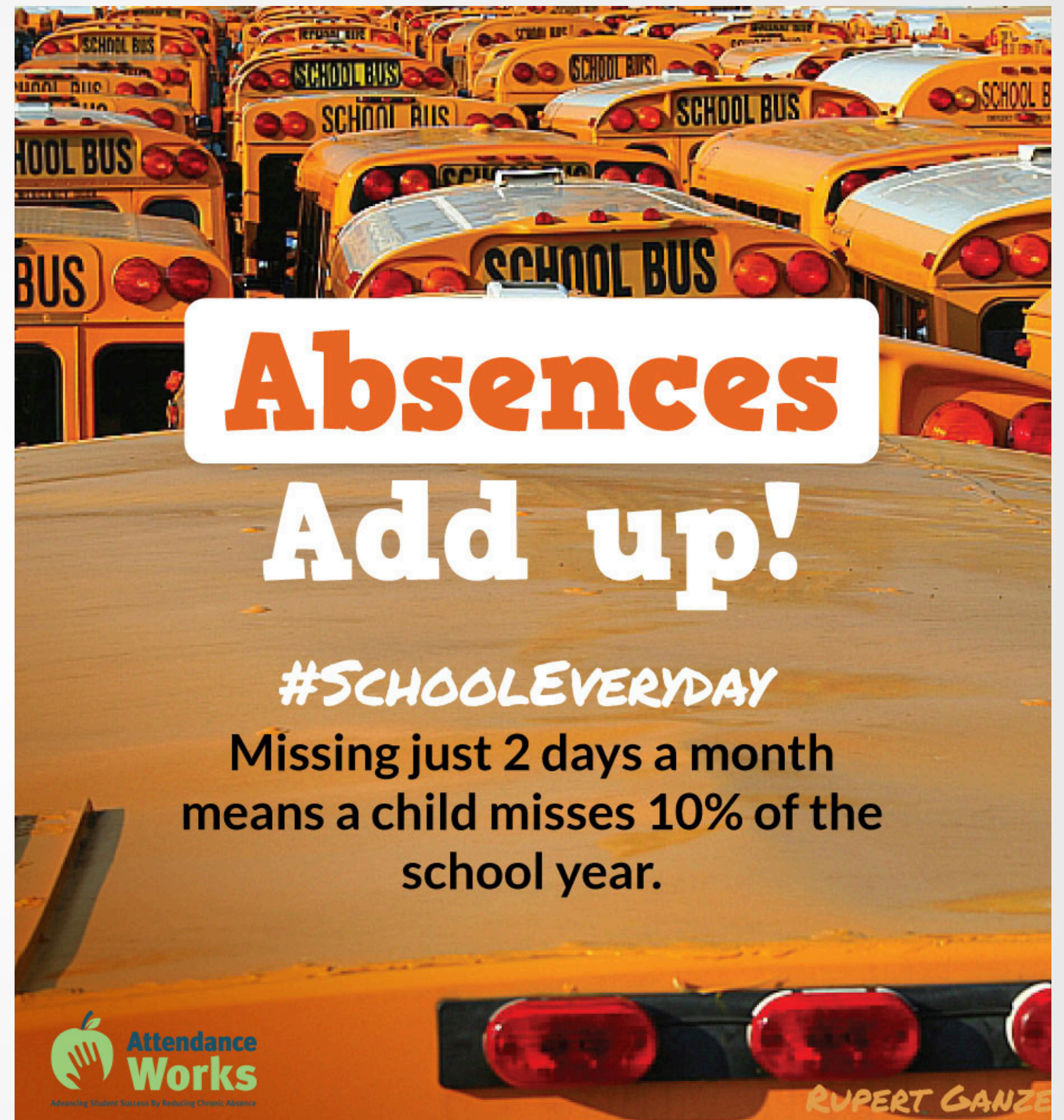
You can play a significant role in improving [Student's Name]'s attendance moving forward and we appreciate your efforts. We are committed to partnering with families to ensure students are present and engaged in learning. Please feel free to contact us if there is anything we can do to support you and your child.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[School/District]



Absences



1 Unexcused

Pursuant to State law, unexcused tardiness or absences shall not be grounds for suspension from school, but may result in other disciplinary consequences, such as detention or placement in existing alternative programs.

Any student who fails to attend any regular scheduled class and has no excuse for absence should be referred to the appropriate administrator. Disciplinary action should include notification to parents or guardians.



2 Excused

- A. Personal illness of the student (medical evidence may be required by the principal or designee for absences exceeding five (5) consecutive days).
- B. Court appearance of the student.
- C. Medical appointment of the student.
- D. An approved school activity (absences recorded but not reported).
- E. Insurmountable problems. Prior permission by principal or designee is required except in the case of an emergency.
- F. Other absences with prior approval of the Principal.
- G. Attendance at a center under Children and Family Services supervision.
- H. Significant community events with prior permission of the principal. When more than one (1) school is involved, the Area Superintendent will determine the status of the absence.
- I. Religious holiday (See Board Policy 3.18 and 5.40).
- J. Death in the immediate family.



Other Considerations

01

DMSMV

Students between ages of 14-18 may become ineligible for driving privileges if they fail to satisfy attendance requirements.

02

Hospital Homebound

Any student with 15 or more absences due to physical or mental condition that confines them to the home may be placed in the Hospital Homebound program.

03

Course Failure

Any student 16 years of age who accumulates 10 unexcused absences in 1 semester for any course, may fail that course or receive recommendation for withdrawal.

04

Termination

At or after the age of 16, that student may file formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment.

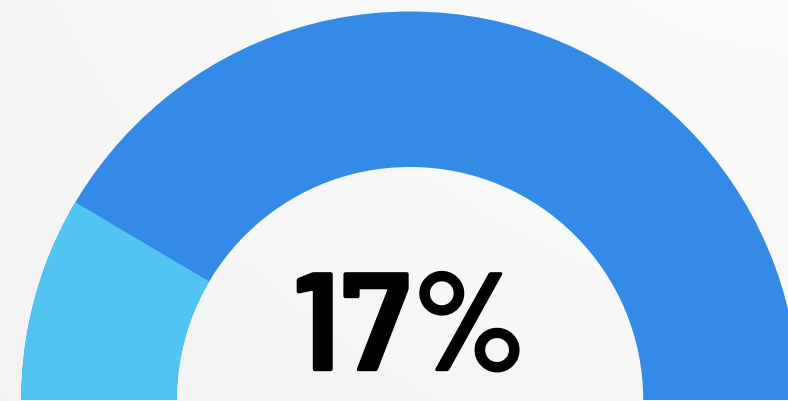
Attendance Awareness Campaign 2024

Be Present. Be Powerful!

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■ Chronic Absenteeism



■ Habitual Truancy





ATTENDANCE SUPPORT SERVICES

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING

If you have any further questions or would like to explore opportunities to work together, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

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