



Alabama School Attendance Awareness Month 2023

ALABAMA IS BUILDING EXCELLENT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Each year millions of hours of valuable class instruction time is missed because of excessive student absences. Chronic Absenteeism is missing 18 or more days in a school year, whether it is excused or unexcused absences. Chronic absenteeism places students at greater academic risk and leads some to fail or even dropping out of school altogether.

Did you know that poor school attendance can start as early as kindergarten and can affect a student's achievement through high school? Missing just 2 days a month means a child misses 10% of the school year! Consistent school attendance is very important. It allows students to build strong foundational skills in reading, math, and language. Barriers in transportation, health issues, poor nutrition, and mental health issues are some leading factors, which can impact a student's attendance.

What families can do

- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Build regular routines for bedtime and the morning.
- Talk about the importance of regular attendance and about how your child feels about school.
- Don't permit missing school unless your child is truly sick. Use a thermometer to check for a fever. Remember that stomach aches and headaches may be signs of anxiety.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.
- Keep a chart recording your child's attendance at home. At the end of the week, talk with your child about what you see.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Ask a family member, neighbor or another parent for help
- Seek support from school staff or community groups to help with transportation, health problems, or no safe path to school
- Watch this informative video from AttendanceWorks.org:
<https://vimeo.com/6361439>

