



FAMILY UPDATES ATTENDANCE

2023-2024 School Year

"EVERY DAY IS IMPORTANT"

Attendance is one of the most powerful predictors of academic achievement and having your student in their seat, ready to learn for the entire school day will benefit them, their classmates, and our whole school community. Let's work together to make sure your child has great attendance and can get the most out of their learning opportunities this school year.

Attendance Procedures

Elementary Schools

In elementary school buildings attendance will be taken each morning at the beginning of the school day. The office will record any student's absence from instructional time during any period of the day.

Middle School and High School

In secondary schools attendance will be taken at the beginning of the school day during homeroom. In addition, attendance will be taken for each instructional period, attendance records will be maintained by the office.



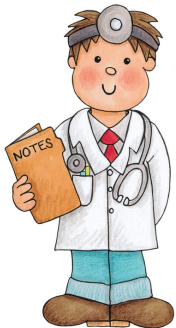
Did you know that WCPS has updated our attendance policy?



WHAT IS CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing more than 10% of school days in a school year for any reason, excused or unexcused. Each day a student is absent counts towards their overall absenteeism rate.

A student who is absent 4-5 days per quarter is missing 10 percent of the available instructional days. To prevent chronic absenteeism and to promote good school attendance habits, the district is working to inform parents, students, and community members of the important of good school attendance.

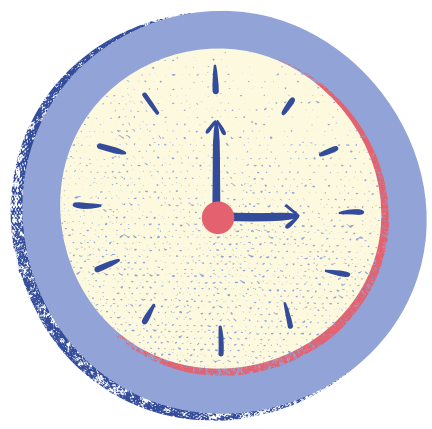


Remember your doctors note!

HOW WE CAN WORK TOGETHER

In the event that a student is absent from school, the following procedure should occur:

- The parent/guardians should contact the school office on the day of the absence.
- Parents/guardians of students who do not report an absence to the school will be contacted by the school to verify the absence.
- If the student misses school for a medical appointment please ensure a note from the provider is given to the school.
- School personnel may request a note from a licensed medical provider after a total of 5 school days are missed due to illness



10 TIPS TO HELP GET YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL ON TIME, EVERY DAY



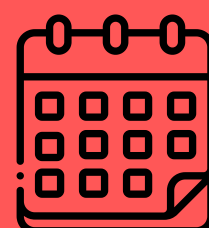
TIP #1

Set attendance goals with your child and track your child's attendance on a calendar. Try offering small rewards for not missing any school, such as a later bedtime on weekends.



TIP #3

Schedule extended trips during school breaks. This helps your child stay caught up in school learning and sets the expectation for your child to be in school during the school year. Even in elementary school, missing a week of classes can set your child behind on learning.



TIP #2

Try to schedule dental or medical appointments before or after school hours. If children have to miss school for medical appointments, have them return immediately afterward so they do not miss the entire day.



TIP #4

Prep the night before to streamline your morning. Have your child lay out their clothes. Have backpacks and lunches packed. Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up like a missed bus or an early meeting. Have a family member, a neighbor or another trusted adult on standby to take your child to school should you ever need help.

TIP #5

Help your child get a good night's sleep. A lack of sleep is associated with lower school achievement starting in middle school, as well as higher numbers of missed school and tardiness. Most younger children need 10-12 hours per night and adolescents (13-18 years of age) need 8-10 hours per night.

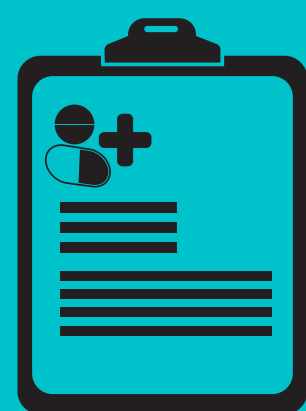


TIP #7

Don't have your child stay home unless they are truly sick. Reasons to keep your child home from school include a temperature greater than 100 degrees, vomiting, diarrhea, a hacking cough, toothache or a positive test for COVID-19 or other infectious illnesses.



TIP #6



Follow the rules. Be sure you know what your school's requirements are for when your child will be absent or late. Please remember to call, email and/or provide a doctor's note for each absence. If we want our children to follow rules, we must lead by example.

TIP #8

Keep track of your child's attendance so you know when the days missed start to add up. Look into why your child is absent. Think about your child's mood. Have they been spending time by themselves lately? Is their chronic condition starting to be more problematic? Is this school refusal? You know your child best.



TIP #9

If your child has a chronic health issue such as asthma, allergies or seizures, talk with your pediatrician about developing a school action plan. Meet with and get to know the nurse at your child's school.



TIP #10

Talk with your child about the reasons why they do not want to go to school. School-related anxiety can lead to school avoidance. Talk to your child about their physical and emotional symptoms. Try to get them to talk about any emotional struggles they may have with issues like bullying, fear of failure or actual physical harm. If you are concerned about your child's mental health, talk with your pediatrician, your child's teacher or school counselor.

