

Help Your Child Succeed in Elementary School: *Build the Habit of Good Attendance*

DID YOU KNOW?

- Participation in early education programs, like preschool and Head Start, lead to better attendance in kindergarten.
- Starting in kindergarten, missing 10% of school (or just 2 days every month) can make it harder to learn to read and cause children to fall behind in school.
- Good attendance, whether class is held in person or remotely, can help children do well in school, and eventually in the workplace.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Communicate with the School

- Contact your child's teacher(s) and let them know how to reach you.
- Ask about the school's attendance policy.

Make School Attendance a Priority

- Establish routines for bedtime, waking up and showing up for class.
- Develop back-up plans for getting your child to school.
- When school is in session, avoid extended family trips and non-urgent medical appointments.
- Ask your child's teacher about attendance and tell the teacher any concerns you have.

Help Your Child Stay Healthy and Engaged

- Monitor your child's attendance and participation; and contact the teacher to address any concerns.
- Make sure your child gets the flu vaccine and other required shots.
- Find out if your child feels safe from bullies. Make sure that school discipline policies don't lead to your child becoming disengaged or pushed out of school. If these are problems, work with your school to find a solution.
- If your child seems bored or anxious about school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make them feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Ask for help when you need it. School staff, after-school program providers, and other parents or community agencies are available to help families obtain food or housing and address other experiences that make it difficult to attend and participate.