

ILLINOIS QUALITY AFTERSCHOOL



Attendance Leads to Success

Illinois Quality Afterschool

September 27, 2016



An Affiliate of the
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September is Attendance Awareness Month!





Welcome back to school! Families play a critical role in their children's education. None of this is possible without your partnership and engagement.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) wants to make sure you have access to all you need to nurture your children's healthy development and education. Below are recommended best practices and resources to help you start off the school year.

Attendance

Attendance is important all year round, but especially so in the first month of school because that can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Missing just two days per month negatively affects a student's academic performance.

- ▶ For younger students, poor attendance can influence whether they can read proficiently by the end of third grade or need to be held back.
- ▶ By sixth grade, chronic absence is a leading indicator that a student will eventually drop out of high school.
- ▶ Research also shows that attendance in ninth grade is a strong indicator of whether a student will finish high school. Also, attendance is a better indicator of whether a student will graduate from high school than test scores or other student traits.

Overall, when students improve their attendance rates, they improve their chances for academic success and improve the likelihood that they graduate.

- ▶ Absences Add Up
- ▶ Attendance Works
- ▶ Every Student, Every Day: A Community Toolkit to Address and Eliminate Chronic Absenteeism



Resources





Attendance Works



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ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2016

#schooleveryday

[About Attendance Works](#)

Attendance Works is a national and state initiative that promotes better policy and practice around school attendance. We promote tracking chronic absence data for each student beginning in kindergarten, or ideally earlier,

Join Us! Attendance Awareness Month 2016

Planning for Attendance Awareness Month in September is underway. Our Count Us In! toolkit 4.0, now completely on-line, includes guidance on how to create your own contest or event, free webinars, tips for reaching out to the media and social media tools to spread the word. Visit the [Attendance Awareness Month website](#) Find resources in the [Count Us In! Toolkit](#)



<http://www.attendanceworks.org>

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Attendance Works

Elementary School Parent Handout



Help Your Child Succeed in School:
Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early
School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

http://www.attendanceworks.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Attendance_ESP1PG_English_062614.pdf

For more on school readiness, visit attendanceworks.org and reachoutandread.org

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Attendance Works

Student Attendance Success Plan

[Insert your logo]

MY CHILD'S ATTENDANCE SUCCESS PLAN

- My child was present ____ days.
- My child was absent ____ days.
- My goal is to improve my child's attendance. I will ensure my child misses no more than ____ for the rest of the year. *(9 or fewer absences = satisfactory attendance)*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES TO REACH MY CHILD'S ATTENDANCE GOALS

- I will talk to my child about how going to school every day will help them do well in school and achieve their hopes and dreams
- I will keep an attendance chart at home. At the end of the week, I will recognize my child for attending school every day with _____
(i.e. a visit to the park, a new book, a break from doing chores, a special treat)
- I will make sure my child is in bed by __ p.m. and the alarm clock is set for __ a.m.
- If my child complains of a stomachache or headache, and medical concerns have been ruled out, I will send him/her to school anyway and call _____ so that he/she can check in with my child during the day.
- If my child has a cold but no fever (less than 100 degrees), I will send him/her to school anyway. If I don't have a thermometer, I will purchase or borrow one.
- I will find a relative, friend or neighbor who can take my child to school if I can't make it.
- If my child is absent, I will contact his/her teacher to find out what he/she missed.
- I will set up medical and dental appointments for weekdays after school.

To improve my child's attendance, I commit to the following:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

We will review progress to meet this goal in two months.

Family Signature: _____ Date: _____

Teacher Signature: _____ Date: _____

<http://www.attendanceworks.org/tools/for-parents/student-success-plan-facilitator-handout/>



Attendance Works

Self-Assessment Tool



Making the Case: How Good Afterschool Programs Improve School-day Attendance

It goes without saying that poor school attendance can lead to academic failure. The opposite is also true: students struggling academically often disengage from school and start skipping classes because they don't see an avenue to success. Research shows that good afterschool programs can not only improve academic performance but also influence school-day attendance, even when most don't appear to make it an intentional goal. They accomplish this by:

- Providing socialization and peer attention in a supervised venue.
- Re-establishing the link between effort and results—first in a non-school activity.
- Engaging students in challenging activities that help them develop persistence, a trait critical to later success in school and life.
- Providing consistent contact with caring, stable adults.
- Increasing the sense of belonging at school.

Consider the research:

<http://www.attendanceworks.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Afterschool9.20.pdf>



ExpandEDSchools

The screenshot shows the ExpandED Schools website. At the top left is the logo with the tagline "Close the learning gap. Open the world." and social media icons. A navigation bar includes "THE LEARNING GAP", "EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY", "ABOUT US", "SUPPORT OUR MISSION", and "RESOURCES". A search bar is on the right. A main banner features a teacher pointing at a chalkboard with math problems, overlaid with the text: "High achievement—in equal measure for all kids regardless of their background, income or zip code—is priority number one." Below this are three colored boxes: "SUPPORTING SCHOOLS" (orange), "MEASURING SUCCESS" (blue), and "ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE" (teal). On the right, there is a "DONATE" button and a "OUR latest BLOGS" section with three entries: "The Key to Keeping Kids Active? Get Creative! | Dear Rashida" (Sept 20, 2016), "Register Today! Announcing Upcoming Fall Professional Development Opportunities" (Sept 16, 2016), and "Listen Up! Advice to Your Adolescent Self" (Sept 15, 2016). Below the blogs is a "6000 HOUR LEARNING GAP" graphic and contact information.

<http://www.expandedschools.org>

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ExpandEDSchools

Avoiding the Attendance Slump

AVOIDING THE ATTENDANCE SLUMP

A troubling pattern begins in May and worsens in June.

Across city elementary and middle schools, there's a **5.8 percentage point difference** between April and June attendance rates.*

In struggling schools, the attendance drop is **nearly twice that.**



EXPERIMENTAL LEARNING

Try out new instructional techniques; do field-based work in nearby parks; offer hands-on learning.



INCENTIVIZED SCHEDULING

Plan key events like proms and graduation for the final days of school.



FIELD TRIP

Ensure policies are inclusive so that all students can attend.



SPIRIT WEEK

Build positive school culture to keep kids engaged.



SHOWS/SHOWCASES

Participation in end-of-year shows/showcases keeps attendance high.



AFTER SCHOOL

Continue programs until the very end of the school year.



MENTORING PROGRAMS

Assign 5th grade buddies to kindergarten students to prepare them for 1st grade.

7 WAYS TO MAXIMIZE LEARNING TIME IN JUNE

*MONTHLY ATTENDANCE DATA COMES FROM THE NYC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WEBSITE: [HTTP://SCHOOLS.NYC.GOV/](http://schools.nyc.gov/)



WWW.EXPANDEDSCHOOLS.ORG

http://expandedschools.org/sites/default/files/Avoiding_the_Attendance_Slump_Infographic.pdf



Absences Add Up

Absences Add Up IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE WHY KIDS MISS SCHOOL ENCOURAGING ATTENDANCE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES THE CAMPAIGN

I need help preventing my child's absences because...

Choose Reason For Absence

***2 Absences Per Month x 9 Months of School
= Less Likely to Graduate from High School***


Your child's daily, on-time attendance is critical to their success in school. And while some challenges to your child's school attendance are unavoidable, it's important to understand the impact of each absence.

A student is considered chronically absent if they miss only **two days of school per month** (18 days in a year), whether the absences are excused or unexcused. This is true for children as early as elementary school, when they are at a higher risk of falling behind in reading. Even one year of chronic absence can cause a child to fall behind academically and decrease a child's chances of graduating from high school, which can have long-term consequences on their financial independence, physical well-being and mental health.

The good news? Attending school every day increases a child's chances of success in school and in life.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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<http://absencesaddup.org>


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U.S. Department of Education







INTRODUCTION

WHO IS IMPACTED

UNSTABLE PATHWAYS

CHRONIC ABSENCE MAPPED

WHY IT MATTERS

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM IN THE NATION'S SCHOOLS

An unprecedented look at a hidden educational crisis.

— U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

<http://www2.ed.gov/datastory/chronicabsenteeism.html>

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Strategies to Improve Attendance

- Build a culture of attendance in school and afterschool
- Gather and share data
- Target at-risk groups
- Combine resources with families and community programs

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GRANTEES EVENTS REQUEST ASSISTANCE ABOUT US NEWSLETTER RESOURCES

How can we help?

REQUEST ASSISTANCE

Welcome to the Illinois Quality Afterschool Program.

SEDL provides technical assistance and professional development to Illinois 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLCs). We hope you will take some time to explore the resources on our website—[workshop and conference archives](#), [webinar recordings](#), [newsletters](#), and [resource bulletins](#). Do you have a question about afterschool? Illinois 21st CCLC grantees can [request technical assistance](#) from the Illinois Quality Afterschool team or you can join our private Facebook group and ask other grantees for feedback.

Click here to view a [tour of the website](#).

Update Your Contact Information

Has your email address or phone number changed? Send your new contact information to us at iqasupport@sedl.org, and we'll make sure you continue receiving Illinois Quality Afterschool publications, announcements about upcoming events, and grantee information.

Quick Links for Grantees

Our [calendar of Illinois 21st CCLC events](#), including webinars, conferences, workshops, and data reporting deadlines.

- [Workshop and Conference Archive](#)
- [Webinar Archive](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)
- [Request Assistance](#)
- [Subscribe to Mailing List](#)

Afterschool Resource Database

The Illinois Quality Afterschool team has launched a new resource database with tools and resources on a variety of topics. Conduct a keyword search or browse by topics such as family engagement, program management, academic achievement, and more.

[Visit the resource database.](#)

Illinois Quality Afterschool Quarterly

The *Illinois Quality Afterschool Quarterly* is a resource for Illinois 21st CCLC professionals. [Subscribe to the newsletter.](#)

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/IQA.SEDL/>

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