

# EXPECT SUCCESS



## ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

*"The reality is an absence is an absence, excused or not, and that child is not in the classroom benefiting from the instruction on that day. We have to work in our community, with our schools and our families to build a culture of attendance."*

Ralph Smith, Annie E. Casey Foundation



As we begin the new school year, **September is Attendance Awareness Month**. In our efforts to provide the best education to all of our children, the importance of daily school attendance plays a vital role in a child's success in school and in their future career goals. This month we will be sharing information with parents about the benefits of regular school attendance. We hope that you will find these tips helpful when talking with your child. Equally as important, you can talk with your child about the importance of regular work attendance in your job or career. For more information about school attendance visit [www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org).



## 10 FACTS ABOUT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

1. Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.
2. An estimated 5 million to 7.5 million U.S. students miss nearly a month of school each year (approx. 20 days).
3. Absenteeism and its ill effects start early. One in 10 kindergarten and first grade students are chronically absent. Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade or be held back.
4. By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
5. Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school year, or about 18 days in most school districts, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence.
6. The academic impact of missing that much school is the same whether the absences are excused or unexcused. Suspensions also add to lost time in the classroom.
7. Low-income students are four times more likely to be chronically absent than others often for reasons beyond their control such as unstable housing, unreliable transportation and a lack of access to health care.
8. When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.
9. Attendance improves when schools engage students and parents in positive ways and when schools provide mentors for chronically absent students.
10. Most school districts and states don't look at all the right data to improve school attendance. They track how many students show up every day and how many are skipping school without an excuse, but not how many are missing so many days in excused *and* unexcused absence that they are headed off track academically.