



DID YOU KNOW?

- It is the law that children between the ages of 6 and 18 attend school every day.
- It is a PARENT'S/CAREGIVER'S responsibility to ensure that his or her child gets to school every day.
- More than three (3) days of UNEXCUSED absences in a school year is considered truancy.
- Students with frequent absences have lower grades and higher dropout rates than students who miss less than 10 days of school per year.
- Students with frequent absences are 50% more likely to get involved with drugs, alcohol and violence.
- Students with frequent absences OR tardies to school develop social relationships with their peers differently than do students who attend school every day and on time.
- Just like working adults, children young and old become frustrated and resentful of students who are frequently tardy to or absent from school, causing their class, grade or school to be eliminated from attendance rewards and awards.

Legal Definitions for Absenteeism

CHRONIC ABSENTEE:

- A student who is absent for any reason, whether excused or unexcused, for 10 percent or more of the school days (at any particular time of year.) (i.e.—By the end of November of each school year, most students have been enrolled approximately 73 days of school. Any child who has had more than 7 days of absences would at that point have Chronic Absenteeism.) (Education Code 60901)

TRUANT:

- A student who is absent from school, without a valid, legal, excuse (for three full days in one school year and/or is absent for any 30-minute period during the school day (tardy or leaves school early) without a valid excuse on three occasions in one school year, is considered a Truant. (Education Code 48260)

HABITUAL TRUANT:

- A student who has been reported as a truant three or more times within the same school year (any student who has 5 or more unexcused absences, 30+ minute tardies and or 30+ minutes in which they left school early, without a valid excuse. (Education Code 48262 and 48264.5)

CHRONIC TRUANT:

- A student who has been absent from school without a valid excuse for 10 percent or more of the school days in one year, from the date of enrollment to the current date. (Education Code 48263.6)

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



CHRONIC ABSENCE
18 or more days

WARNING SIGNS
10 to 17 days

GOOD ATTENDANCE
9 or fewer absences

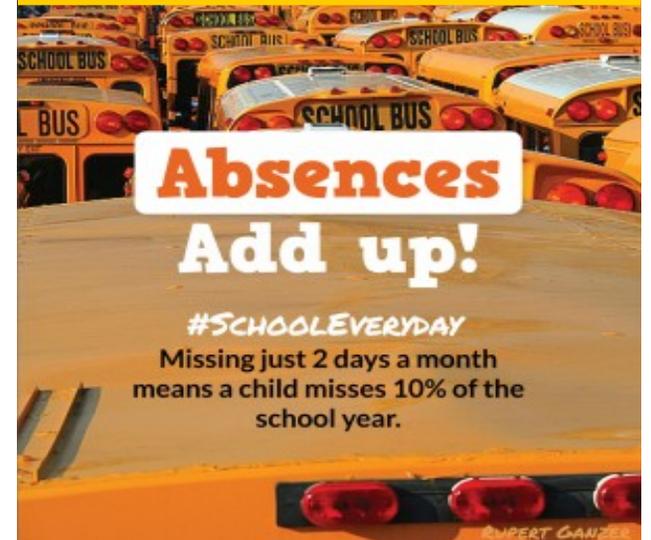
Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.



TULARE CITY
School District



every day counts
ATTEND TODAY -
ACHIEVE TOMORROW!



ABCs Of Student Success

A is for ATTENDANCE.

Attendance is a critical factor in any child's school success. Children should attend school every day, except in cases of illness or emergency. It is impossible to replace the learning that happens on any school day with make-up work. Regular attendance and promptness are good habits that are expected and appreciated at all levels of schooling *and* in the workplace. This year, make school a priority in your household. Commit to excellence in attendance. Your child's future depends on it!

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83%

of Students Chronically Absent in Kindergarten & 1st Grade Are Unable to Read On-Level by 3rd Grade

Absences Lead to Dropouts

Students Who Cannot Read On-Level in 3rd Grade Are

4X

More Likely to Drop Out Than Kids Who Can

Even if your child's absences is "Excused" - if your child misses school, they miss out of valuable and important instructional time.



Students Chronically Absent in Pre-K, TK, Kindergarten and 1st Grade are much less likely to read proficiently in the 3rd grade.

Little Risk to Your Child if they...

Miss less than 5% of school year in grades Pre-K, TK, K & 1st. (Missing 0-8 days per year.)

Moderate Risk to your child if they...

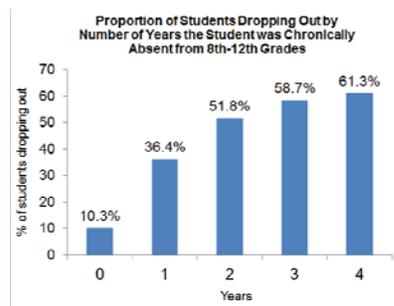
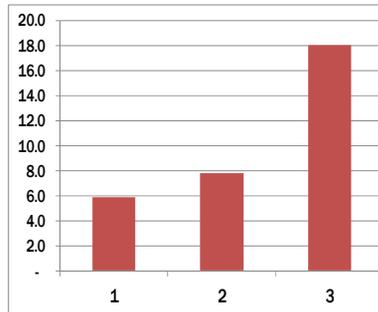
Miss 5-8% Of days in grades Pre-K, K & 1st grades. (Missing more than 8 days and less than 14 days.)

High Risk

Missed 10% or more in K & 1st grades. (17+ days per year)

Multiple Years of Elementary Chronic Absence

When a child has chronic poor attendance (consistently missing more than 2 days per month) in three or more years of Elementary School, there is greater probability that the child will become so far behind academically that chances of graduating from high school decrease significantly. Suspension rates for these students also increase significantly.



With every year of chronic absenteeism, a higher percentage of students dropping out of school.

In a ten year study done in the State of Rhode Island, only 11% of chronically absent high school students went on to attend a 2nd year college. 51% of those students studied, who had low absences while in high school., went on to 2-4 year colleges.



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What Does It Take To Get a Child To School Every Day?

1. Family Practices and Habits

Families create & nurture habits at home that encourages school attendance **EVERY** day.

2. Social Capital

Families develop social relationships with friends and neighbors who can help out in times of difficulty.

3. Schools & Staff

Teachers, nurses, counselors, administrators; build relationships with students and eliminate barriers to good school attendance.

What are some of the things I can do to encourage daily school attendance for my child?

- Set a **regular bedtime** and morning routine to make sure children get enough sleep and wake up ready for school. (Lay out clothes, backpacks and completed homework each night before bed so it is ready for the morning rush.) Insure homework is completed before bed each night so that students will feel prepared and ready each for school each morning.
- Make medical appointments** when school is not in session.
- Avoid taking vacation** when school is in session.
- Send your child to school every day** unless they are truly sick.
- Develop backup plans** for getting your child to school if something comes up.

Tulare City School District

Raising caring, creative and confident children.