

Predictors of Future Truancy

School Related

- Attendance/absence patterns (Monday/Friday absences), frequent absences, tardies, and suspicious excuses
- Poor classroom performance in general
- Frequent change of schools
- Two or more years behind in reading and/or math
- Failure of one or more school years
- Behavior problems requiring disciplinary measures

Family Related

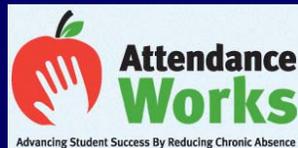
- Sibling performance in school was negative
- Family problems (alcoholism, abuse, neglect)
- Recent death or divorce in family
- Parents do not value the school experience
- Little encouragement or support from home

Peer Related

- Peer relationship-loner, fighter, or shy
- Friends not school oriented and/or much older
- Feeling of not belonging
- Negative peer pressure

Other

- Language/cultural differences
- Health-related problems (pregnancy, emotional, physical)
- Transportation problems
- Lack of basic needs
- Problem with authority figures



This pamphlet was written to inform parents and educators in the local school districts about the importance of attendance. Each school district has its own policies. For more information on Attendance Policies in your school district, please contact the school your child attends.

This pamphlet was produced by the Attendance & Truancy Division of the Lake County Regional Office of Education. ATD is a program that serves Lake County, and is funded by the Illinois State Board of Education's Truant's Alternative & Optional Education Program (TAOEP). For more information, call (847) 223-3400, x223 or go to our website www.lake.k12.il.us.

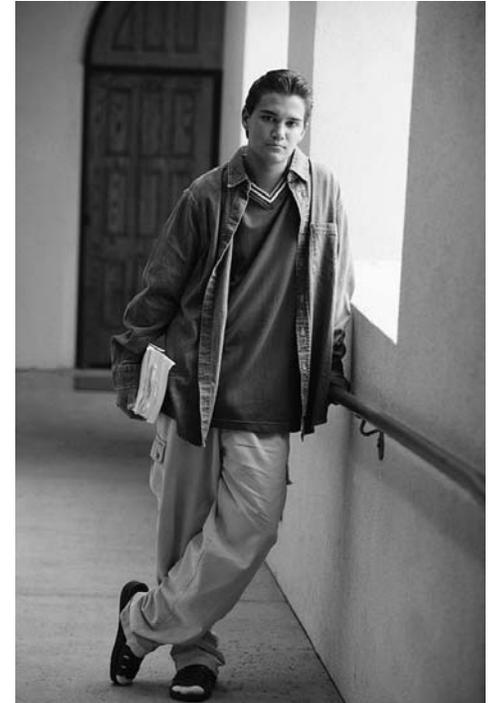
Some of the information provided was developed and distributed by www.attendanceworks.org with permission to reproduce. The Lake County Regional Office of Education's Attendance & Truancy Division is a proud supporter of their annual Attendance Awareness Month, which is each September.



School Contact:

Parent's Guide

Encouraging School Attendance



Attendance & Truancy Division

Monika Schwander, Director

19525 W. Washington Street

Grayslake, Illinois 60030

Phone: 847.223.3400

Fax: 847.223.3415

Web site: lake.k12.il.us

ATTENDANCE TIPS FOR PARENTS



The home, school, and community need to share in the responsibility for supporting and promoting regular school attendance. A successful

school program depends on parental support, cooperation, and active involvement.

According to Attendance Works, “it doesn’t matter if absences are excused or unexcused. They all represent lost time in the classroom and a lost opportunity to learn” (www.attendanceworks.org).

Attendance matters as early as kindergarten! With the 2014-2015 school year, the **new** compulsory school age of attendance is 6-17.

Things Parents Can Do:

- Remember that until children are on their own in life, they will need supervision and guidance.
- Talk to them about the importance of regular school attendance.
- Ask about homework and provide a quiet, well-lighted place to study.
- In September, ask to see your child’s schedule and become familiar with the subjects your child is taking. Learn the teachers’ name.
- Take a few minutes daily to discuss school with your child. Look at the class work they bring home. Ask them to bring some home each Friday.
- Pay attention to conversation with friends and siblings. Things that take place in school should be heard in conversation. A lack of discussion of school activities may signal that the youngster is not attending or may indicate a lack of interest in school. **This can be a warning signal.**
- If your child has had problems with reading or math in elementary school, or is repeating a grade in junior high school, go to the school in September and talk with the school counselor about taking a closer look at your child’s academic needs. Be prepared to follow through on any of the recommendations made by the school counselor.

- Inquire through the principal’s office about visiting your child’s classes. Many schools have “parents” days.
- Report cards are issued periodically during the school year. Become familiar with dates for issuing reports. Note the days absent recorded on the card. If your child does not bring a report card home, request a copy from the school. **Pay attention to the teacher remarks.**
- Do not accept poor achievement in your child. Set high expectations. Seek help if you suspect learning problems.
- Help your child set goals for life so that school is seen as a step in reaching these goals. Suggest and discuss careers and qualifications needed to get into these careers. Ask the school counselor for career information.
- Deal with truant behavior immediately. It may indicate other problems. Seek help from school officials immediately.
- Set an example for your child.
- Ask the school for help—many schools offer services for the whole family.
- Avoid extended vacations that require your children to miss school. Try to line up vacations with the school’s schedule. The same goes for doctor’s appointments.

How you can encourage your student:

- ☆ Remind them that school is their first and most important job!
- ☆ Students who attend school regularly are more likely to graduate and find good jobs. A high school graduate makes, on average, a million dollars more than a dropout over a lifetime.
- ☆ School only gets harder when you stay home too much. Sometimes it’s tempting to stay home because you’ve got too much work or you don’t understand what’s going on in class. But missing a day only makes that worse.

If you want more information on how to help your child, go to www.attendanceworks.org or www.boostup.org. They are a great tool for you.

Every absence, in any grade – excused or not – can impact a child’s academic achievement.

www.boostup.org

Parent's Guide to Career Development

- ☆ Explore together your child’s personal interest and preference.
- ☆ Increase your child’s knowledge of different occupations.
- ☆ Explain the concepts of work roles and responsibilities.
- ☆ Create opportunities to learn about worlds beyond your child’s immediate experience.
- ☆ Assist your child in examining the basic skills needed in the world of work.
- ☆ Help your child understand cooperation, respect, and the value of diversity in the world of work.
- ☆ Understanding of how to cope with change.
- ☆ Encourage your child to review the requirements for middle school and/or high school graduation.
- ☆ Become familiar with the options after high school graduation, getting a job, further education, etc.

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Grayslake, IL 60030

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