

In primary school, some students miss on average 3 weeks of school per year. That's half a year of school by the end of year 6.



# Every Day Counts

## Primary School Attendance

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*Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day—missing school puts them behind.*

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### Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with regular attendance. If students consistently miss school, they miss out on learning skills that are fundamental for success in later school years.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each absence puts students behind and can affect their educational outcomes. Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing, and reading.

### Main reasons for absence

**Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only absent on the days they are genuinely sick. Setting good sleep patterns, eating well, and exercising regularly can help prevent sickness.

**Vacations** – It's vital that vacations are planned during school holidays and not during the term if possible.

**"Day off"** – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates.

**Truancy** – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. The best way to address and resolve truancy is for schools and parents to work together.



Retrieved from [www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx)

### Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early. A child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of elementary school.

### What you can do

If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up. Develop a plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan. Remember, **every day counts**.



Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent escalating attendance issues which lead to referrals to the Attendance & Truancy Division (ATD). ATD is under the Lake County Regional Superintendent of Schools who has authority to follow up on attendance issues. They ultimately can refer students to court for truancy, which can lead to fines and/or incarceration (SC 105.26). If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

### Further Information

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit the school's website or [www.lake.k12.il.us](http://www.lake.k12.il.us)



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