

## Students who are on time to school are more successful.

Stacy Zeiger, Santa Fe Public Schools

### Why It's Important

Chronic tardiness eventually takes its toll on a child's overall educational experience. According to the national initiative, Attendance Works, missing just 10% of the school year in the early grades causes many students to struggle in elementary school, and tardiness in later years is associated with increased failure and dropout rates.

On-time attendance is a habit best learned as soon as kids enter school. When a student begins the pattern of being late to class, it can become a habit. This in turn can have a negative effect on their success in school.

#### Being on time:

- Strengthens and reveals integrity
- Shows dependability
- Builds self-confidence
- Assures student is at their best
- Builds discipline
- Shows humility
- Shows respect for others

#### Being late:

- Disturbs others
- Strains relationships
- Takes a toll on life



### What You Can Do:

#### In the Evening:

- Lay out your child's clothing for the next day.
- Prepare your child's lunch and/or snack the night before.
- Make sure your child's backpack is packed and by the door.
- Set bedtime rituals and have your child go to bed on time.
- Get your child an alarm clock and begin to train him/her to be responsible for getting up when the alarm clock goes off.

#### In the Morning:

- Do not ever let a child wait until the morning to complete homework, get papers signed, or pack a lunch.
- Let your child eat breakfast on the go or at school to avoid the morning hassle if possible.
- Leave 10 minutes earlier when there is bad weather.
- If you simply cannot get your child to school on time, consider riding the bus to school as an option if possible.

Sources: <http://www.sfps.info/>, [http://www.artofmanliness.com/2012/07/16/a-man-is-punctual-the-importance-of-being-on-time/#disqus\\_thread](http://www.artofmanliness.com/2012/07/16/a-man-is-punctual-the-importance-of-being-on-time/#disqus_thread), <http://www.performwell.org/index.php/identify-outcomes/education/10-indicators/117-tardiness>

Each school district has its own policies. For more information on Attendance Policies in your school district, please contact the school your child attends.

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#### School Contact Information:

Parent's Guide

## Issues with Tardiness



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# Impact of Tardiness on School Success

Schools stress the need for students to get to school and class on time with good reason: studies conducted by the U.S. Department of Education on truancy and tardiness show that on-time daily school attendance is a major factor when it comes to school success and student behavior.



**Problems with Tardiness...** The most crucial learning hours of a school day are the morning hours, because they are when students are most attentive. Students who are tardy miss the beginning of their morning classes, and they also cause a distraction when they arrive late to class.



**Academics and Achievement...** Students who are frequently tardy have lower GPA's, lower scores on standardized assessments, and lower graduation rates. Chronic tardiness in elementary and middle school is also linked to failure in high



school.

**Behavior Problems...** In the National Center for Education Statistics (2007), "Indicators of School Crime and Safety," teachers surveyed reported that students who are frequently tardy have higher rates of suspension and other disciplinary measures. Tardiness causes students to feel disconnected with school, leading to behavior problems and dropouts.

**Job Performance...** Students who are frequently tardy to school are also more apt to be fired from a job for showing up late.

**Effect on Others...** When students are tardy, they negatively affect their teachers and other students. Teachers are often required to allow tardy students to make up work, which often requires them to restructure their lessons or re-teach missed material. Tardiness also takes other students' attention away from a teacher's lesson, leading to more behavior problems and missed instruction.

## Tips to Avoid Being Tardy

- Make sure your child has everything together before you pull into the traffic line.
- Leave 10 minutes earlier when there is bad weather.
- Get your child an alarm clock and begin to train him or her to be responsible for rising when the alarm goes off.
- Don't EVER let a child wait until the morning to do homework, get papers signed, or pack a lunch!
- Choose and lay out clothing for the next day before going to bed.
- If you simply cannot get your child here on time, consider having them ride the bus, if possible.
- Let your child eat breakfast at school and avoid the morning hassle!



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