



● WE MISSED
● YOU IN SCHOOL!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

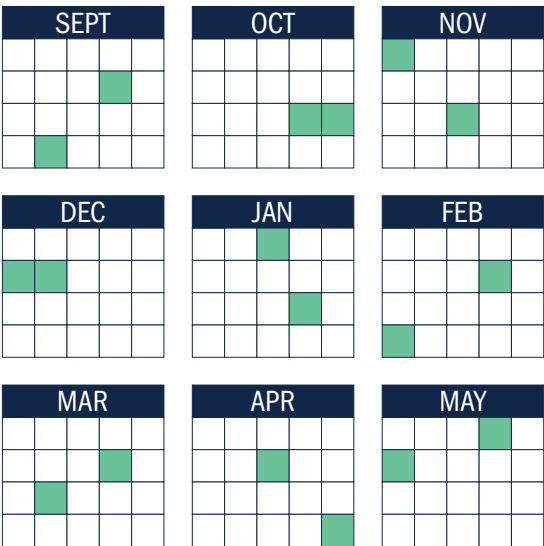
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS TO EVERYONE.

Chronic Absenteeism is a concern across Kentucky's schools. Solving this challenge will take all of us working together to get our children back to school.

Across Kentucky, almost **30%** of all students were chronically absent during the 2022-2023 school year. And for some student groups, the numbers are even worse. About 35% of our students who are in foster care, about 35% who are Black, 37% who are economically disadvantaged, and 50% of students classified as homeless were chronically absent.

Kentucky is not alone. Many states across the country are facing challenges in getting all of their students to attend school regularly. According to the U.S. Department of Education, more than 14 million students nationwide were chronically absent during the 2021-2022 school year.

*Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10% of yearly school time – or just **two days** a month – for excused or unexcused reasons throughout the school year.*



MISSED DAYS ADD UP TO BIG LOSSES.

When students miss school, they miss out on learning, making it hard for them to keep up with their classmates. They miss out on relationships and social development. They miss out on important projects and learning about teamwork. And they can miss out on graduating on time.

$$2 \times 9 =$$

ABSENCES PER MONTH

MONTHS OF SCHOOL

LESS LIKELY TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL

- Used with permission from Attendance Works

GOOD ATTENDANCE LEADS TO LONG-TERM SUCCESS.



K and 1st Grade

GOOD ATTENDANCE → More likely to read well by the end of 3rd grade.

9th Grade

REGULAR ATTENDANCE → A better predictor of graduation than 8th-grade test scores.



Missing Pieces of Instruction

Day-to-day classroom activities and lessons build on each other like pieces of a puzzle. Even if your student can turn in assignments after an absence, missing class makes it harder for them to keep up. With project-based learning and other innovative learning experiences happening in today's classrooms, students rely on each other for group projects, so being present each day creates stronger teamwork.

Career Success

Showing up every day is a life skill that will help with getting and keeping a job. High school graduates earn more than dropouts. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2023, those with a high school diploma earned median weekly earnings of \$905, compared to \$721 for those without a diploma.

WHY DO STUDENTS MISS SO MUCH SCHOOL?

●	• Illnesses and Health-Related	• Social-Emotional Wellness
●	• Family Issues and Emergencies	• Transportation Issues
●	• Mental Health Challenges	• Academics, Motivation & Student Disengagement
●	• Work-related Issues	
●		

School Staff Can Help

Schools can connect families to resources for food and social services, transportation, health care, counseling and more. There is always a caring adult at school who can help families and students with the challenges that may keep a student from attending school. Families and students can speak to a school administrator, school counselor, teacher, coach, school psychologist or social worker if they need help.

Every teacher wants to see ALL their students in class every day.

LET'S SOLVE CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM IN KENTUCKY!

It will take our schools, families and communities working together to help get our students in school every day.

1. INCREASE SCHOOL CONNECTEDNESS FOR STUDENTS

HOW?

Students have an adult at school who knows and cares about them, a supportive peer group, they feel welcome and a sense of belonging, and have meaningful learning and activities.

2. MEANINGFUL FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

HOW?

Families are treated as partners, they feel welcome and engaged in ways that benefit and support student learning. Community partnerships provide services and supports to reduce attendance barriers for students and families.

3. IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SCHOOL LIFE

HOW?

Anti-bullying efforts, mental health supports, access to extra-curriculars, learning that connects to locally meaningful outcomes and career opportunities for students.



Let's be "ALL IN" for helping our children reach their full potential!



Kentucky Department of
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