

HOLBROOK ROAD SCHOOL

WHY DOES ATTENDANCE MATTER?

A missed school day is a lost opportunity for students to learn. In this era of increased accountability for states, districts, and schools, the connection between student attendance and learning is being studied more than ever before.

The primary rationale for high-quality attendance is the direct relationship between student attendance and student achievement. Chronic student absence reduces even the best teacher's ability to provide learning opportunities. Students who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve at higher levels than students who do not have regular attendance. This relationship between attendance and achievement may appear early in a child's school career. A recent study looked at young children found that absenteeism in kindergarten was associated with negative first grade outcomes such as greater absenteeism and subsequent years of lower achievement in reading, math, and general knowledge.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS IN
A CHILD'S ACADEMIC LIFE

Poor attendance has serious implications for later outcomes as well. High school dropouts have been found to exhibit a history of negative behaviors, including high levels of absenteeism throughout their childhood, at

higher rates than high school graduates. These differences in absentee rates were observed as early as kindergarten, and students who eventually dropped out of high school missed significantly more days of school in first grade than their peers who graduated from high school. In eighth grade, this pattern was even more apparent and, by ninth grade, attendance was shown to be a key indicator significantly correlated with high school graduation.

The effects of lost school days build up one absence at a time on individual students. Any absence, whether excused or not, denies students the opportunity to learn in accordance with a school district's instructional program, but students who miss school are sometimes further excluded from learning opportunities as a consequence of chronic absenteeism. (National Center for Education Statistics)

Poor attendance creates significant learning gaps. Even if students complete the make-up work, they most likely will not learn and retain the information as well as if they had been there. If your child is struggling with attendance, please do not hesitate to reach out and connect with our social worker or school psychologist.