

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



CHRONIC ABSENCE
18 or more days

WARNING SIGNS
10 to 17 days

SATISFACTORY
9 or fewer absences

Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

FACT:

Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by grade 3.

FACT:

Excused & unexcused absences have the same negative effect on academic performance.

FACT:

Missing the building blocks & basic skills in the early grades makes it much harder to stay afloat. Many children never catch up.

FACT:

When students improve attendance, they improve their chances of graduating.

FACT:

Half of students who miss 2-4 days in September will go on to miss nearly a month of school.

FACT:

Absences affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

FACT:

Being a half hour late each day, K-12, is equivalent to missing 1 year of schooling.

FACT:

Missing 3 days/month during K-12, is equivalent to missing more than 2 years of schooling.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO:

Make school attendance a priority

- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required vaccinations.
- Talk about the importance of showing up to school everyday, make that the expectation.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Introduce your child to teachers and classmates before school starts to help the transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless contagious or a doctor agrees. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to increase comfort level and excitement about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.
- Stay on top of academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors if necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage meaningful after school activities, including sports and clubs.

Communicate with the school

- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties.
- Talk to teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not piling up.

We are here to help! Reach out if....

- **Your child has severe separation anxiety and you're worried that may cause too much school to be missed**
- **Your child has a major chronic health issue**
- **Your child misses more than two consecutive days (please contact the teacher)**
- **Your child experiences the loss of a family member**
- **There is a crisis that affects attendance (such as homelessness, domestic issues, etc.)**

School Social Workers are available:

East Senior	716-677-3312 Ms. Syracuse
West Senior	716-677-3368 Ms. DiPasquale
East Middle	716-677-3536 Mr. Scozzaro
West Middle	716-677-3513 Ms. Smart
Allendale Elementary	716-677-3670 Mr. Hanley
Clinton Elementary	716-677-3631 Ms Schoepflin
Northwood Elementary	716-677-3649 Ms. Fitzpatrick
West Elementary	716-677-3166 Ms. Caprio
Winchester Elementary	716-677-3594 Mr. Rejewski

*"Used with permission from Attendance Works.
The language has been adapted to reflect local policies."*

West Seneca Central School District Presents:



ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



PRE-SCHOOLERS
Build skills and develop habits for showing up on time.

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
Read well by the end of third grade

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS & HIGH SCHOOLERS
Stay on track for graduation

COLLEGE STUDENTS
Earn their degrees

WORKERS
Succeed in their jobs

- **Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.**
- **Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.**
- **By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.**
- **By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.**
- **Missing 10 percent, or about 18 days, of the school year can drastically affect a student's academic success.**
- **Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.**
- **Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job.**