

Dear Parents/Guardians-

Attendance is an important part of school. Studies have shown that students with regular attendance are more likely to read proficiently by the third grade. It may not seem like much but at the end of the school year, that's 18 absences (or 10% of the school year).

Being sick does happen. Earlier this year, Mrs. Dunigan, school nurse, sent home guidelines about when to keep your child home from school. Per district policy, students must remain home for 24 hours after fever of 100.0 degrees or higher, vomiting or diarrhea. This is especially important as some students in your child's classroom may be challenged with suppressed immune systems.

Being on time to school and staying the entire school day is also critically important. Being late or leaving early just 10 minutes a day means missing 50 minutes of instruction by the end of the week, missing 3 hours and 20 minutes of instruction by the end of the month or missing 30 hours of instruction (6 full school days) by the end of the school year! Elementary schedules do not rotate so if your child is habitually late or leaving early, they are missing the same instruction each time.

As of October 31st, 60% of students at ESS have had at least one day absent, 36% have left early at least once and 27% have been tardy at least once. Building a regular morning routine, planning family vacations and doctor appointments when school is not in session and developing a backup plan can help families avoid unnecessary absences, tardiness and early dismissals.

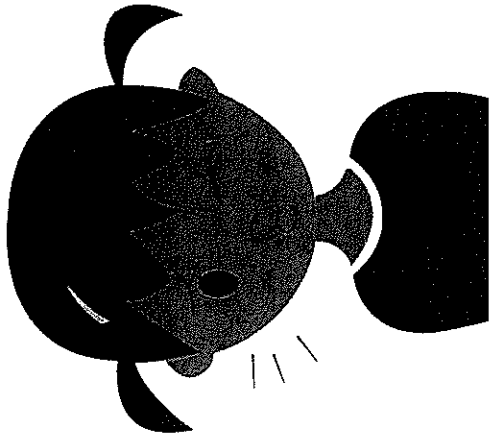
This year the district policy has changed regarding attendance. After 9 absences, only those with a doctor's note will be excused. The Youth Outreach officer will send a letter home to those students who are near the 9 absence threshold so that you are aware. All late arrivals (after 9:00 A.M.) and early dismissals (before 3:45 P.M.) are considered unexcused unless a doctor's note is received within ten days. A student is considered truant when he/she has accumulated four unexcused absences in a month or ten in a year. A student is considered chronically absent when they have missed ten percent of their enrolled school days. Calling in a absence does not mean that it will automatically become an excused absence, once again a doctor's note will be needed.

Attached to this letter you will find some resources to assist you and your child. We are here to help. If you need additional assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out.



Jamie Weber
Assistant Principal

WHEN IS SICK TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?

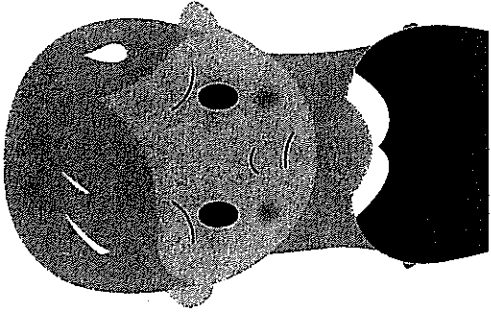


Send me to school if...

I have a runny nose or just a little cough, but no other symptoms.

I haven't taken any fever reducing medicine for 24 hours, and I haven't had a fever during that time.

I haven't thrown up or had any diarrhea for 24 hours.

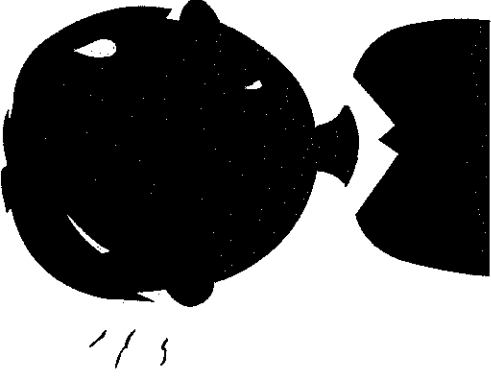


Keep me at home if...

I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees even after taking medicine.

I'm throwing up or have diarrhea.

My eyes are pink and crusty.



Call the doctor if...

I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees for more than two days.

I've been throwing up or have diarrhea for more than two days.

I've had the sniffles for more than a week, and they aren't getting better.

I still have asthma symptoms after using my asthma medicine (and call 911 if I'm having trouble breathing after using an inhaler).



Attendance Works



www.attendanceworks.org

More than 100 million children miss school every day. That's about 15% of all children in the United States. The average child misses 10 days every month. One out of five children in kindergarten miss school every month. Attendance works in schools, homes, and communities. The attendance and retention rate in grades, especially in the primary grades, is a key indicator of how many young children are chronically absent in our schools and communities.

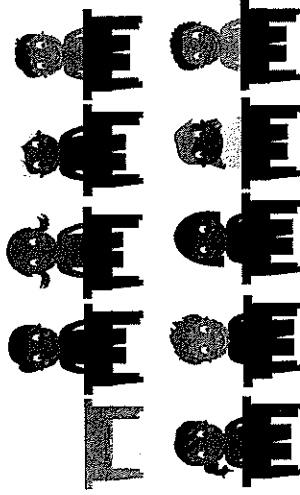
Who is affected

Kindergarten and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom.

1 in 10 kids

in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent.

In some schools, it's as high as 1 in 4.¹



2 in 10 low-income kids miss too much school. They're also more likely to suffer academically.¹



2.5 in 10 homeless kids are chronically absent.²



4 in 10 transient kids miss too much school when families move.²

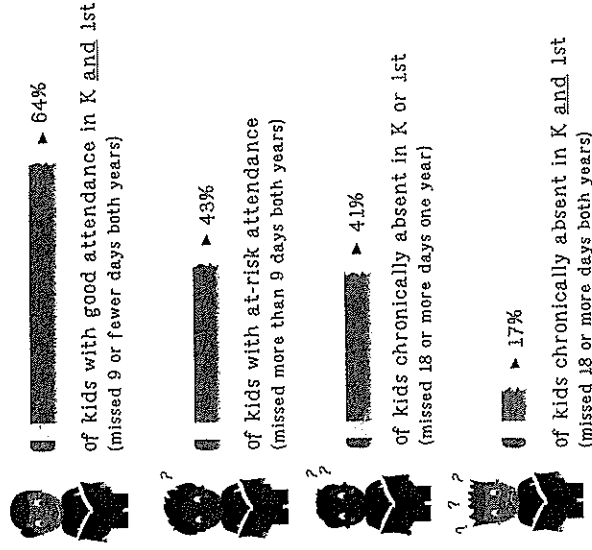


Why it matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

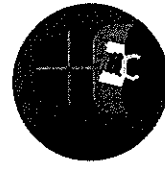
Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?



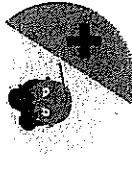
What families can do



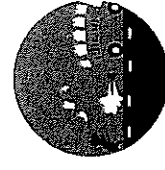
Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.



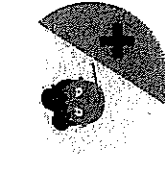
Build regular routines for bed time and the morning.



Talk about the importance of regular attendance and about how your child feels about school.



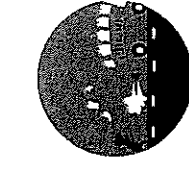
Don't permit missing school unless your child is truly sick. Use a thermometer to check for a fever. Remember that stomach aches and headaches may be signs of anxiety.



Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.



Keep a chart recording your child's attendance at home. At the end of the week, talk with your child about what you see.



Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Ask a family member, neighbor or another parent for help.



Seek support from school staff or community groups to help with transportation, health problems, or no safe path to school.