

Why Attendance Matters

- Often, parents don't realize that every day matters—even at the kindergarten and first grade levels.
- Attendance patterns and morning routines are set in September.
- In Oregon, students are considered chronically absent when they miss 10% of the school year, or 18 days.
- 1 in 6 Oregon children is chronically absent.
- This lost instructional time exacerbates dropout rates and achievement gaps.
- This significantly compromises a child's ability to read at grade level by the end of third grade.
- Children who are not reading at grade level by the end of third grade are less likely to graduate on time.
- Absenteeism can indicate a larger issue such as difficulty with transportation, housing, or emotional or physical challenges.
- Communities are committed to caring for their children, and resources are in place. Schools can connect students to solutions.
- When the root cause for absenteeism is addressed, attendance improves.
- When students reduce absences, they can make academic gains.
- When students make academic gains, they are more likely to graduate from high school on time.

Inspired to improve your child's attendance? Check in with your school to find out how to get help with challenges or visit every-day-matters.org.

For more information, visit your school district's website or every-day-matters.org.