Attendance is one of the most important factors in determining if a student will do well in school, graduate and be prepared for success in their careers and postsecondary education.

**Why Attendance Matters**

Students are chronically absent when they miss 10 percent of the school year. **Missing only 2 days a month** (for any reason) can have a significant impact on student success.

A habit of attendance is a **school readiness skill**. Students who are chronically absent in early grades are far more likely to be chronically absent in later grades. Building high attendance habits is also a **life skill that will impact success** as future employees, leaders and citizens.

The early grades matter. Only 41 percent of **students who are chronically absent in kindergarten or first grade** can read at grade level after third grade.

Students who attend school regularly are more involved in activities, athletics, fine arts and other programs that **build healthy social networks and important life experiences**.

Attendance is one of the largest predictors of whether a student will graduate. Students who attend school regularly stay on track for graduation and report higher levels of success in their future higher education and/or careers.

By college, a chronically absent high school graduate has **only an 11 percent chance of receiving any degree**, impacting success, well-being and their future.
What is good attendance?

*Descriptions taken from AttendanceWorks.org

**High Attendance**
- five or fewer absences per year

**Regular Attendance**
- attendance rate of 95% or missing one day per month for any reason

**Chronic Absence**
- attendance rate of 90% or missing two days per month for any reason

**Severe Chronic Absence**
- attendance rate of 80% or missing four days per month for any reason

What can families do?

- Talk about the importance of regular attendance and about how your child feels about school.
- Build regular routines for bed time and the morning.
- Keep a chart recording your child’s attendance at home and 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, academics, health problems or no safe path to school. Contact the Student Attendance and Engagement Office at 303-702-7887 for assistance.
- If your child is sick or needs to miss school, please contact your school to get the absence excused.

Getting students involved in arts, music, athletics and other co-curricular activities can have a significant impact on their attendance, engagement and overall academic success.