



School Attendance

Why Attendance is Important

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

Excused or unexcused, ALL absences represent lost learning.

Did You Know...?

Missing 10% of school days, or about 18 days, can make it harder to learn to read and drastically affect a student's academic success.

Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.

Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two every few weeks.

By sixth grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that students may drop out of high school.

Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child's future success.

What You Can Do

Set a regular bedtime, morning, and daily routine.

Talk about the importance of attending school every day, and make that the expectation.

Try to avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

Check your child's attendance.

If you need attendance support, ask the school about available resources.

Allow your child to stay home from school only when truly sick.

Know your child's teachers and communicate with them regularly.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is chronic absenteeism?

Students who miss 18 days or more in a school year are considered chronically absent. Students should miss no more than 9 days a year to stay engaged and on track.

How can I see my child's attendance record?

To review your child's attendance record, you can:
log in to the Infinite Campus parent portal
call your child's school

What do I need to do if my child is not able to attend school today?

Parents are required to notify the school each day their child will not be attending.

Who can help support me with my child's attendance?

Reach out to your child's school for support.

- **Crossroads Park Elementary** 515-633-5600
- **Crestview School of Inquiry** 515-633-5700
- **Clive Learning Academy** 515-633-5800
- **Hillside Elementary** 515-633-6200
- **Fairmeadows Elementary** 515-633-6500
- **Jordan Creek Elementary** 515-633-5200
- **Westridge Elementary** 515-633-5400
- **Western Hills Elementary** 515-633-5900
- **Indian Hills Junior High** 515-633-4700
- **Stilwell Junior High** 515-633-6000
- **Valley Southwoods** 515-633-4500
- **Valley High School** 515-633-4000
- **Walnut Creek Campus** 515-633-6400

Iowa Compulsory Attendance Law (Iowa Code, Chapter 299)

Who must attend?

A child who has reached the age of 5 and is under 16 years of age by Sept. 15 is of compulsory attendance age. If a child reaches the age of 16 on or after Sept. 15, the child remains of compulsory age until the end of the regular school calendar.

What does the law say?

The parent, guardian, or legal/actual custodian of a child who is of compulsory attendance age shall cause the child to attend some public school, an accredited non-public school, or competent private instruction.

Questions?

Contact WDMCS Learning Supports and Family Engagement Coordinators:

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Find out more at www.attendanceworks.org.