

# ***Good Attendance Makes All the Difference!***

## ***Help Your Child Succeed in School by Building the Habit of Good Attendance Early***

### ***School Success Goes Hand-in-Hand With Good Attendance!***

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Starting in preschool, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent of school can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance and missed learning opportunities.
- Attending school regularly helps students feel better about school - and themselves.
- Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day, is important.
- Good attendance will help students do well in high school, college and at work.
- Research shows that the earlier a student learns that school is his or her job and that he or she has important work to do, the more successful children will be in their education.
- Learning begins the moment students settle into their morning routines. When a child is late for school, even by a few minutes, learning is interrupted.
- Two (2) absences a month = 18 absences a year. If a child has 18 absences per year, by the end of Grade 4 they would have missed  $\frac{1}{2}$  a year of school, and by the time they finish Grade 9 they have missed ***one full year of school!***



#### **WAYS TO HELP STUDENTS DEVELOP A ROUTINE TO BE PRESENT AND ON TIME FOR SCHOOL:**

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Eat a good breakfast to ensure students are ready to learn.
- Talk to your child about the importance of school.
- Ask your child what they did at school each day and make it a positive detailed conversation.
- Don't let your child stay home unless he/she is truly sick. 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, Family Service Advocates or other parents for advice on how to make him/her feel comfortable and excited 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.

**WHEN YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT,  
PLEASE:**

1. Call the school to report the absence.
2. Send a note to the teacher explaining the reason for the absence.
3. If you take your child to the doctor because of illness, get a note and provide the note to the school.  
\*\*This note explains an absence, it does not excuses it.
4. Check to see if there is any work your son/daughter could do at home to make up any time that was missed.
5. Ask your school if there are any other steps you must take.



**WORCESTER  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
PRESCHOOL &  
KINDERGARTEN**

**WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



**LET'S GO TO  
SCHOOL!**

The Worcester Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer/Educational Institution and does not discriminate regardless of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, disability or homelessness. The Worcester Public Schools provides equal access to employment and the full range of general, occupational and vocational education programs. For more information relating to Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action contact the Human Resource Manager, 20 Irving Street, Worcester, MA 01609, 508-799-3020.

