

## The Benefits of Strong Attendance

- Helps to keep students from falling behind
- Keeps students on track for graduation
- Improves social skills; builds self-confidence as students interact with their peers and teachers
- Provides the path to a secure job in the future
- Students learn skills to interact with people
- Students develop healthy life habits

## The Impact of Chronic Absence

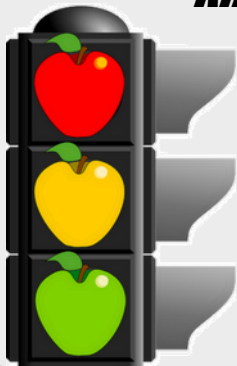
Whether a student has a legitimate excuse or not, every absence counts. **Chronic absence** is missing 10% of the school year, **regardless of the reason for the absence**. That's just 2 or more days per month, and it has been shown to impact student performance. Here are a few facts:

- Being late to school or class may lead to poor attendance. Tardy to school or class, adds up to missed instruction.
- Children with poor attendance in Kindergarten and 1st grade are less likely to read on grade level after 3rd grade.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, regular or high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

## Tips for Families

- Have a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Pack your backpack and pick out clothes every night.
- Create a backup plan to get to school if the bus is missed.
- Schedule doctor/dentist visits for after school.
- Use a calendar to track tardy and absence days. Strive for 5 or fewer absences.
- Make a plan with the teacher to complete the work missed when absent.
- Review the school's attendance policy in the student handbook.

### ***Know the benefits. Know the numbers. Know the risk.***



#### **RED IS RISKY: Missing 10 or more days**

Time to get back on track. Work with the school to determine a plan of action.

#### **YELLOW IS CAUTION: Missing 6 to 9 days**

Time to talk with your child about the importance of improving their attendance

#### **GREEN IS GREAT: Strive for 5 or fewer days absent**

Strong attendance gives students the best chance for success in school.