

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

Grundy County Schools acknowledges the importance of a student attending school every day. Below are a few helpful tips and reminders to make sure your student starts the school year off right and stays on track for success.

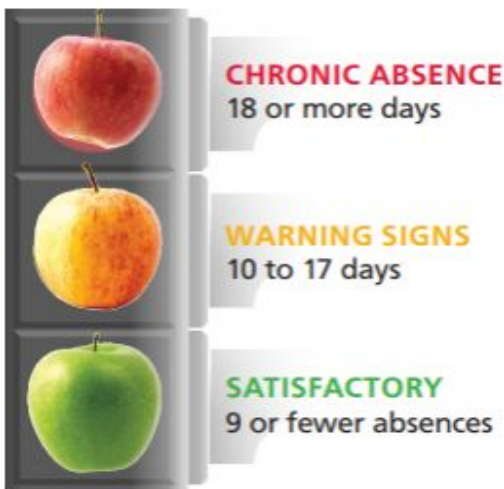
ATTENDANCE POLICY

- REMEMBER: students are allowed **3 parent notes** each semester in order to excuse an absence.
- Should a student reach **3 unexcused absences**, parents will receive a letter or phone call from the school/teacher notifying parents of their student's absences.
- Should a student reach **5 unexcused absences**, both the student and their parents will attend a truancy meeting with the truancy officer, principal, and guidance counselor to develop an intervention plan.
- Having **more than 5 unexcused absences** will result in truancy officer and juvenile court intervention.
- PowerSchool is an app that allows you to monitor your student's progress at school; including attendance and grades. Talk to your student's school to learn more about this beneficial tool!

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Show students they are important to you. Students remember how you make them feel. Meaning, showing you care will result in them wanting to perform better.
- Communicate the belief that all students can excel inside and outside of the classroom.
- Encourage extracurricular participation. Schools with high rates of extracurricular participation have significantly lower rates of student absenteeism.
- Explain the value of education to your students' parents, and ask them to reinforce it at home.
- Student performance is affected by the climate of a teachers classroom/school. It is important for teachers and staff to create a positive, welcoming, and energetic learning environment.
- When creating lesson plans, teachers should strive to meet the learning needs of their students.

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

Truancy Vs. Chronic Absence

TRUANCY

- Counts only unexcused absences
- Emphasizes compliance with school rules
- Relies on legal & administrative solutions

Vs.

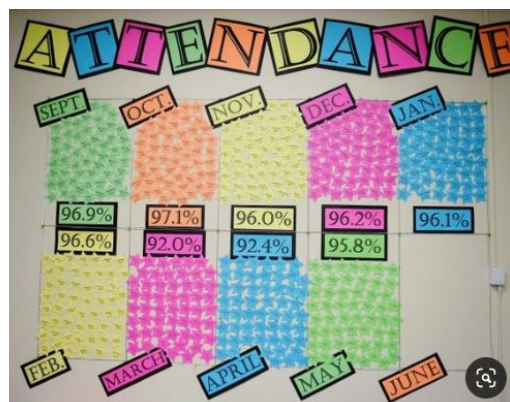
CHRONIC ABSENCE

- Counts all absences: excused, unexcused & suspensions
- Emphasizes academic impact of missed days
- Uses community-based, positive strategies

PROMOTING ATTENDANCE IN THE CLASSROOM

Bulletin Boards

- Recognize and display those students who are achieving attendance requirements through the use of fun and creative bulletin boards!
- Positive reinforcement of behavior shows kids that you are noticing when they're not at school.



Make Attendance Fun

- Turn school attendance into a competition to promote a little friendly, class rivalry. Winners can receive prizes such as pizza and popcorn parties.
- To a kid school is the furthest thing from fun. Providing them with excitement inside the classroom makes them excited to go to school!



Put Students in Charge of Their Attendance

- Implement decorations and policies that make students aware of their own attendance rates. Put up posters showing where students are during the day when they're not in your classroom.
- When students can physically see how many days they were at school or not, it really makes a difference in their attendance.



Extreme Couponing

- If a student achieves good attendance for a specified period of time, reward them with coupons for special privileges!
- Incentives work to bolster student performance by giving them something to work towards.

