

HOW PARENTS/GUARDIANS CAN HELP ENSURE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL SUCCESS

Make sure your child goes to school regularly and on time.

- Let your child know that you think school is important.
- Take an interest in your child's school work.
- Provide regular times and a quiet, clean area for doing homework.
- Set a regular bedtime schedule.
- Provide your child with plenty of time to get ready for school.
- Set good examples and enforce rules.
- Include regular exercise and a balanced diet in your child's daily activities.
- Post the school calendar and notes on the refrigerator, or another prominent location.
- Limit and balance extracurricular activities.
- Keep open communication lines with your child and your child's school.

Absences

- If your child starts to miss school, speak to the school and let your child know that he/she must attend.
- When your child is ill, or if your child has a chronic illness, contact the school and explain the reason for the absence(s). *You may wish, or you may be asked, to submit documentation from medical or other appointments.*
- Generally, babysitting siblings and vacations are not acceptable absences.
- There are Community Health resources the school can help you access.

Make sure your child is in school all day, everyday!

Sources:

1. {Neb. Rev. Stat. §79.201 (2010)}
2. Macomb Intermediate School District and Macomb County Circuit Court, Michigan – attendance brochure
3. www.attendanceworks.org

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Attendance Matters! Know the Law

What parents of elementary aged children need to know about school attendance and the law



Education is important for your child's success in life. Regular attendance ensures that your child gets all the benefits school can offer. When children miss school, they miss out on those benefits.

- *Being absent eliminates the students' opportunity to learn. The more school the student misses, the more difficult it is for the student to read, write, and do math on grade level. Once gaps develop, it becomes more and more challenging to fill in those gaps.*
- *Children do best in school when they are in class every day. The U.S. Department of Education reports that for every missed day of school, it takes a student two days to catch up.*
- *Children who are in class every day have stronger bonds with the school and community.*
- *In addition to academics, children learn valuable lessons about personal responsibility and commitment.*
- *Attendance may be the single most important factor in school success.*

School attendance is so important that Nebraska law requires all children ages 6 to 18 attend school. When children are excessively absent from school, the law holds parents/guardians accountable. If your child is excessively absent from school, you and your child could end up in court with serious consequences.

{Neb. Rev. Stat.
§79.201 (2010)}



PATTERNS ESTABLISHED EARLY IN LIFE CAN REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

School success leads to greater success later in life. Students who graduate from high school will earn 30% more, on average, than those who don't complete high school. Help your child create successful habits now because:

- Poor attendance in elementary school often leads to excessive absences in middle and high school.
- According to research, students who have poor attendance are at higher risk for dropping out of high school, entering the juvenile court system, having social problems and being unemployed.
- People who don't complete high school tend to have higher rates of poverty and incarceration.

As a parent or guardian you are responsible for your child's regular attendance at school.

To prevent excessive absences you should know these important things:

- LPS attendance data shows that most elementary age students don't miss any school days.
- Being late can add up quickly... 10 minutes a day totals 30 hours of lost instruction for the school year! Make sure your child arrives on time.
- When you receive notice from school about attendance concerns contact the school administrator or social worker immediately. They are very interested in working with you to resolve the issue.

Legal consequences of excessive absences

When a student's absences become excessive, schools are required by law to contact the county attorney. If the case ends up in court, all attendance issues, including tardies, may be considered in the court's decisions.

- Nebraska law requires a referral to the county attorney for all students who are absent 20 or more days or the period equivalent, regardless of the reason. Also, when students have had excessive absences in previous years, a referral to the county attorney may be submitted when the student has missed 5 days per quarter or 10 days in a school year.
- If the county attorney takes action, a court hearing may result in a finding of educational neglect by the parent/guardian, in which case, services/actions may be ordered; OR the parent may be ticketed and/or fined.



SCHOOL OFFERS THE OPPORTUNITIES YOUR CHILD WILL NEED TO SUCCEED IN LIFE.