

## 10 Facts About School Attendance

1. Research evidence shows that missing 10 percent of the school year—about 18 days— negatively affects a student’s academic performance. That’s just two days per month, which is considered chronic absence. [Read more...](#) The academic impact of missing that much school is the same whether the absences are excused or unexcused. Suspensions also add to lost time in the classroom.
2. Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school. [Read more...](#)
3. Over 7 million (1 in 7) U.S. students miss nearly a month of school each year. [Read more...](#)
4. Absenteeism and its ill effects start early. One in 10 kindergarten and first grade students are chronically absent. [Read more...](#)
5. Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade or are held back. [Read more...](#)
6. By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school. [Read more...](#)
7. Students who live in communities with high levels of poverty are four times more likely to be chronically absent than others often for reasons beyond their control, such as unstable housing, unreliable transportation and a lack of access to health care. [Read more...](#)
8. When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating. [Read more...](#)
9. Attendance improves when schools engage students and parents in positive ways and when schools provide mentors for chronically absent students. [Read more...](#)
10. Most school districts and states don’t look at all the right data to improve school attendance. They track how many students show up every day and how many are skipping school without an excuse, but not how many are missing so many days due to excused and unexcused absences that they are headed off track academically. [Read more...](#)