

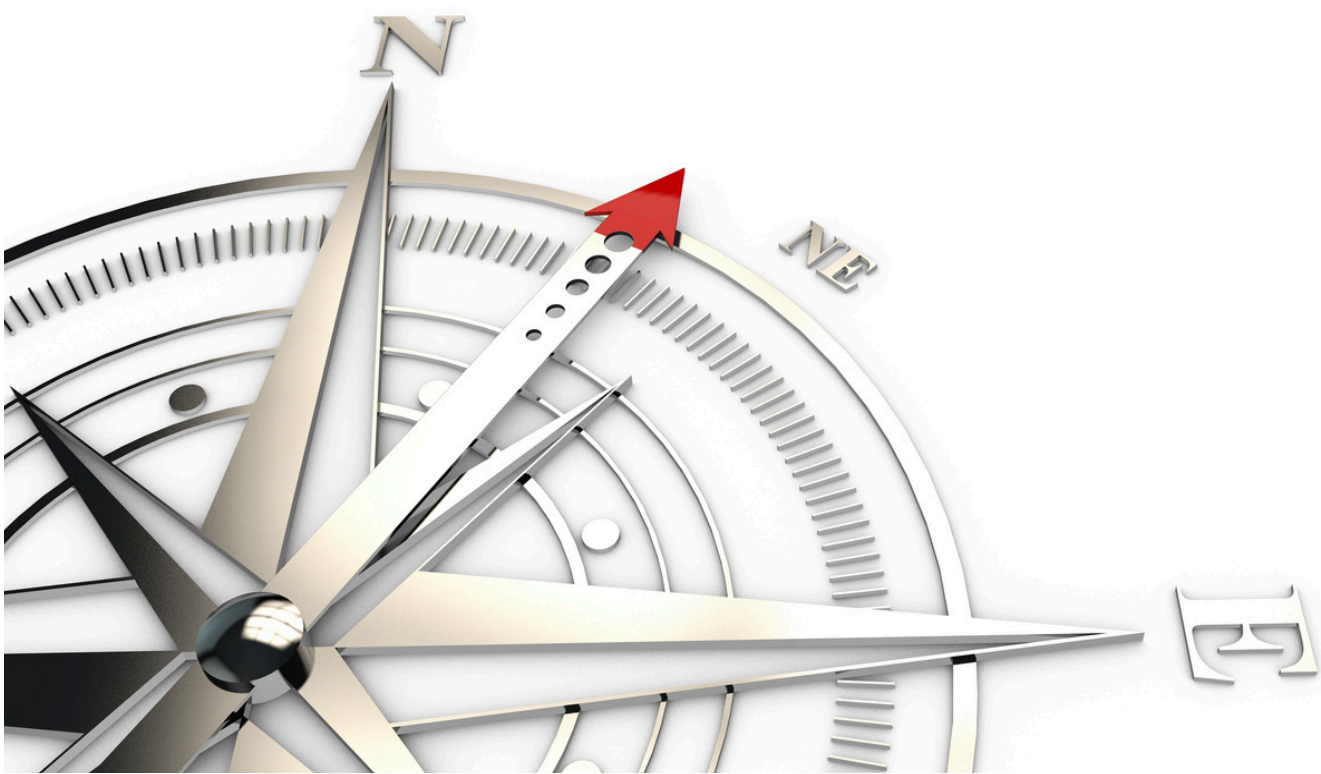


ATTENDANCE MATTERS

NAVIGATING PREK DAY

MAY 8, 2025

ALBANY, NY





Presenters



TIFFANY KOO, ASSOCIATE



MEGAN TOBIASEN, ASSISTANT



Panelists



ASHLEY YOUNG



LINDSAY KRAWCZYK



HOLLY VELASQUEZ



JENNIFER STEARNS

The Benefits of Regular School Attendance



**Social and Emotional
Development**

**Community
Engagement**

Educational Foundation

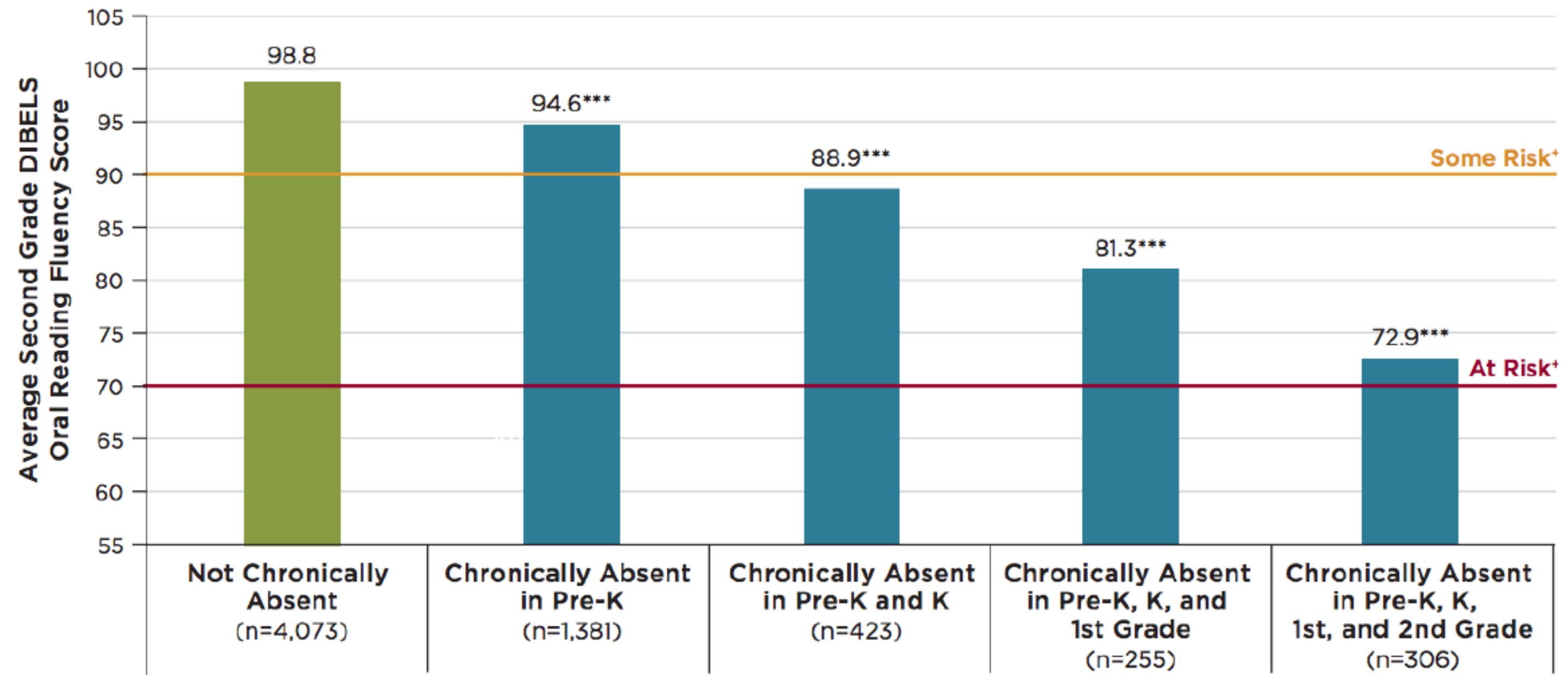
School Readiness

**Access to Support
Services**

Long Term Benefits

Impacts of Chronic Absenteeism

The more years students are chronically absent in the early years, the more at-risk they are for needing reading interventions by the end of second grade.



Ehrlich, Stacy B. et al. *Preschool Attendance in Chicago Public Schools: Relationships with Learning Outcomes and Reasons for Absences: Research Summary*. September 2013.

Challenges to Attendance



School Environment and Support

- Unwelcoming climate
- Lack of support and meaningful relationships

Emotional and Social Factors

- Trauma and community violence
- Social challenges and anxiety

Disciplinary Practices

- Biased discipline and suspensions

Health and Wellness Issues

- Chronic and acute illness
- Undiagnosed disabilities

Family and Home Challenges

- Family responsibilities
- Housing and food insecurity

Accessibility and Transportation

- Poor transportation
- Limited access to services

District Panel



Buffalo Public Schools

Prekindergarten Attendance Support



Attendance Promotion

Buffalo Public Schools promotes the importance of attendance through:

- Positive Attendance School Year Kick-off Events (Ready Freddy)
- Attendance Support Teachers
- Attendance Support Teams
- District Wide Attendance Goals



Attendance Challenges

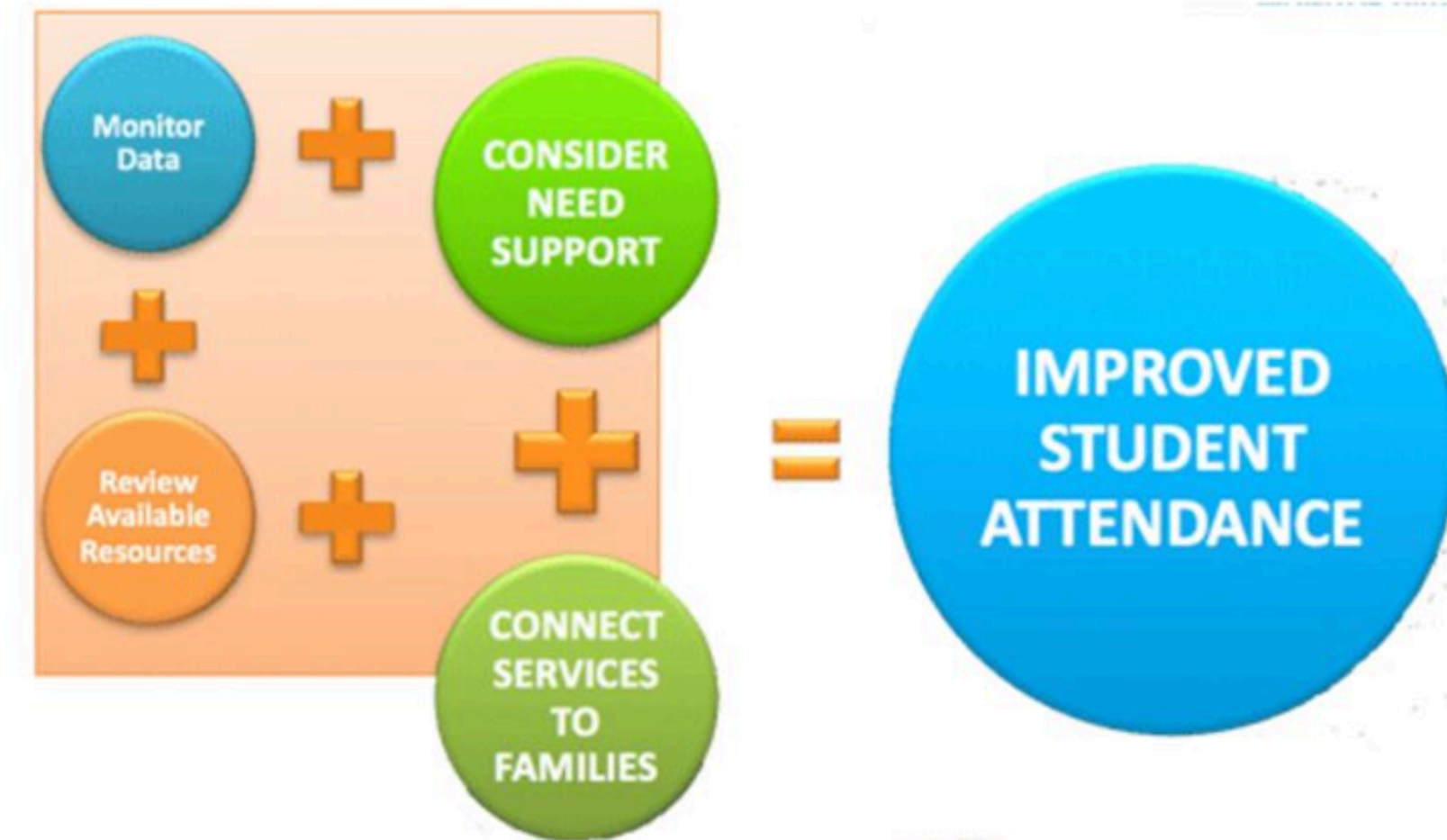
- Financial
- Health
- Housing & Location
- Language
- Understanding that PreK is a necessary foundation for future academic success



Success with Challenges & Incentives

- Every family PreK to 12 receives a copy of the District Attendance Policy via the Student Handbook
- The Attendance Policy is reviewed by building level administration at “back to school” events and through out the year
- The Attendance Policy includes building-level development of grade-appropriate incentives

Theory of Action



Attendance Policy

District Student Attendance Advisory Committee:

- Attendance Policy distributed in multiple languages.
- Includes ALL students



Medina CSD



Portrait of a Graduate

Citizen

- shares personal talents with community
- shows empathy, compassion, & respect for others
- demonstrates civic responsibility

Self Advocate

- self aware, reflective, and resilient
- seeks opportunities
- uses time and financial resources

Communicator

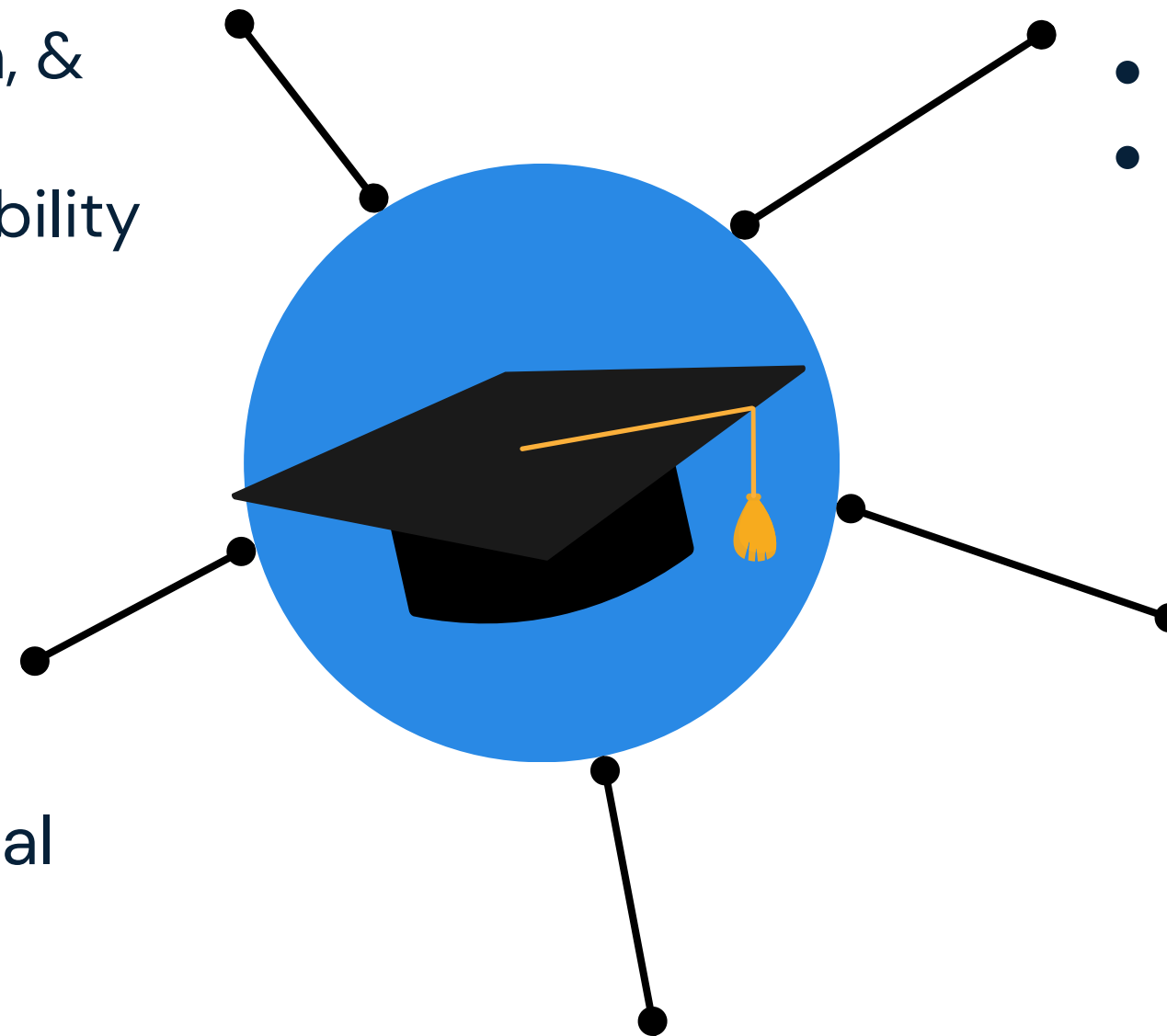
- has a vision and is goal driven
- uses digital tools effectively & responsibly
- demonstrates written and verbal proficiency

Critical Thinker

- engages in problem solving
- demonstrates flexible thinking
- practices growth mindset

Collaborator

- respects the contributions of others
- works effectively with others
- contributes to team work





The Importance of Attendance

- UPK Information Night - Held each spring to meet with incoming families
- Parent Supported Start - One parent/family member attends for ½ day with students to start out the school year
- Shared research on the importance of attendance in the early years

Challenges

- Custody (one week with one parent, one week with a parent out of town)
- Families who share UPK is not mandated
- Illnesses - first time exposed to so many germs
- Behavioral challenges



Creating Our Attendance Policy

- UPK - 12 Attendance policy
- Current Strategic Plan action item to review

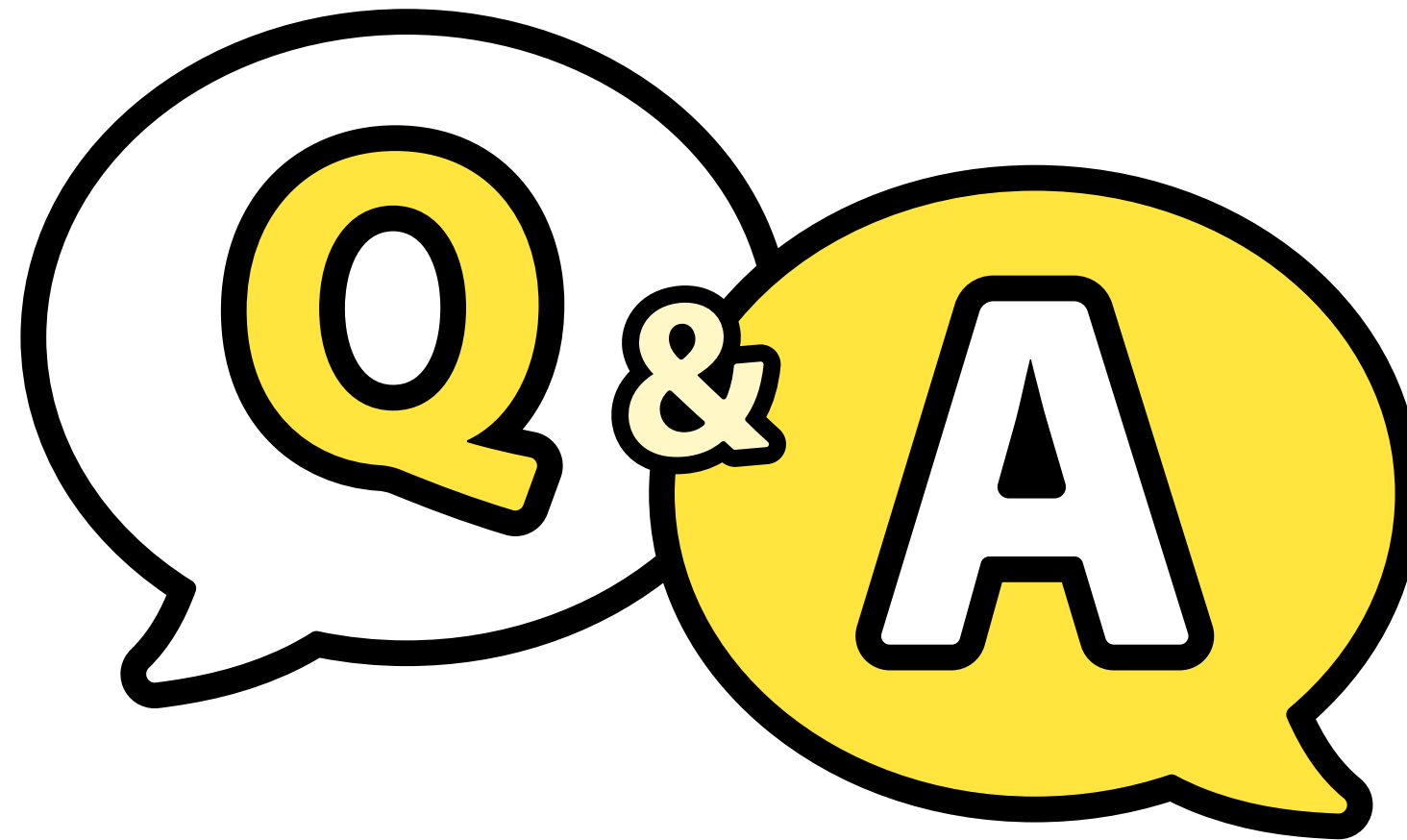


Meeting the Needs of All Families & Learners

- Connection with migrant supports
- Virtual or phone translation supports
- Translation features in ParentSquare
- Consultation with ENL teachers
- Ensure all families can connect with the District in a means that meets their needs
- Responsibility on the school to communicate and connect



Questions & Answers



Attendance Resources



Attendance Matters

Every day counts!

Attending school regularly and on time helps children feel better about school—and themselves.


Did you know...?

Missing just **one** or **two** days of preschool or kindergarten every few weeks can make it **more difficult** to:

- Gain early reading and math skills
- Be prepared for kindergarten/first grade
- Build relationships
- Develop good attendance habits in high school and college


Consider this!

Missing 1 day every 2 weeks = 20 days per year
1 day per week = 40 days per year
2 days per week = 80 days per year




This summer, start establishing routines!

- * Create morning and evening routines:
 - Set a bed and wake up time a few weeks before the first day of school
 - Lay out clothes—let your child choose!
 - Pack bookbag the night before
- * Start a countdown to the first day
- * Visit the school and meet the teacher
- * Make sure immunizations are up to date
- * Read to your child each night, in your home language, and use books to address concerns in playful ways
- * Create a pick up/drop off schedule with neighbors
- * Ask questions!



Tier 1




BE HERE. LEARN MORE

Attendance Opens Every Door


Did You Know?

Regular attendance in preschool and kindergarten is crucial. Missing a few days can impact reading and math skill development. Starting good attendance habits early supports academic and social growth, ensuring a brighter future.



Why it Matters


Chronic absenteeism among U.S. students rose to 30% in the 2021–22 school year, nearly doubling from 2018–19. This trend leads to missed learning opportunities and weakens relationships with teachers, negatively affecting academic growth.



3 in 10 students are chronically absent across the United States in the 2021–2022 school year

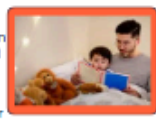
What You Can Do

YEAR BEFORE



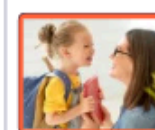
- visiting the new school or classroom
- meeting the teachers and staff
- setting up home visits
- read books all about school
- have a countdown for the 1st day

DAY BEFORE




- set expectations for home to school
- organize transportation
- prepare materials and clothes
- set a morning and bedtime routine
- review the schedule for the day

AFTER EVERY DAY




- ask your child about their day, what they learned, and who they met
- assess any health needs
- check backpack for school updates and notices

Tier 2



Support Your Child's Success in Prekindergarten

Form the Habit of Good Attendance



Punctuality in school sets the tone for a day of adventures, learning, and friendships. By showing up on time, kids kickstart their day with a bang, dive into exciting activities, and never miss a beat in class or on the playground. Plus, being a regular attendee sends a powerful message about the value of education. Teachers can keep tabs on progress, provide a helping hand, and build strong bonds with those who show up like clockwork, paving the way for bright futures.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Establish a Routine

Create a consistent routine that includes waking up at the same time each day, having a healthy breakfast, and preparing for school. Predictability helps children understand expectations. Consistency in bedtime routines is also crucial. Establishing a sequence of calming activities such as a warm bath, a bedtime story, or some soft music can signal to children that it's time to sleep, promoting better rest and overall well-being.

Remember to involve your child in creating their routine. This not only empowers them but also increases the likelihood that they will adhere to it. Regularly review and adjust the routine as needed to accommodate changes in their interests and developmental needs. A well-balanced routine provides a sense of security and helps children develop time management skills, laying a strong foundation for their future.

Make Attendance a Priority

Communicate the importance of attending school every day unless they are truly sick. Emphasize that learning happens every day and missing school means missing out on valuable experiences. Attending school every day is crucial because each day is an opportunity for growth and learning.

Positive Reinforcement

Praise your child when they have good attendance. Celebrate milestones like completing a full week or month without any absences. This not only reinforces positive behavior but also boosts their confidence and motivation. Consider creating a reward system with small incentives like stickers, extra playtime, or a special outing. Make sure to communicate the importance of regular attendance and how it contributes to their learning and growth.

Tier 3

Thank You!

“Courage starts with
showing up and letting
ourselves be seen.”

- Brene Brown



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