

# Attendance Information

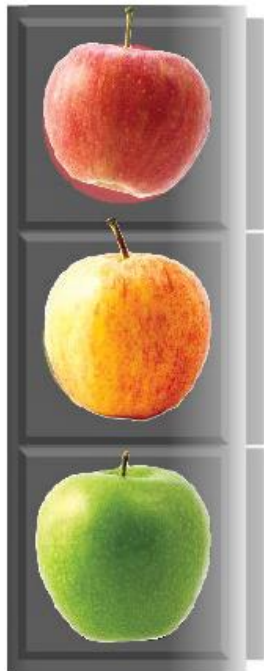
Bedford Elementary School

**School Matters!**



# 94% Attendance Goal

## When Do Absences Become a Problem?



**CHRONIC ABSENCE**  
18 or more days

**WARNING SIGNS**  
10 to 17 days

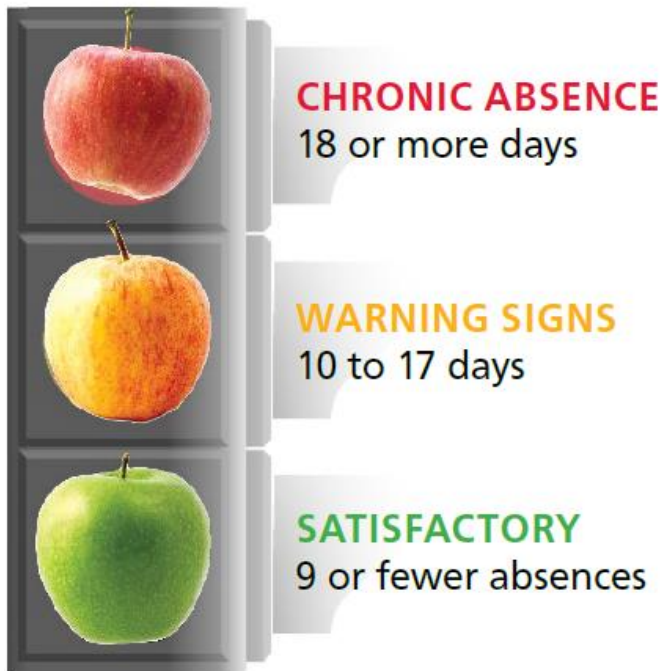
**SATISFACTORY**  
9 or fewer absences

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

- All absences, lawful or unlawful, are counted towards a child's attendance rate.
- **Chronic Absence:** absent 10.% or more
- **Moderate Absence:** absent 7.0% - 9.9%
- **Meeting Attendance Goal:** absent 6% or less (for a present rate of 94% or higher)
- Students absent 2 days a month each month will result in chronic absenteeism

# 94% Attendance Goal

## When Do Absences Become a Problem?



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

## 2022-23 School Year

- 91 students or 29% of students were reported as chronically absent at Bedford
- Present Rate 50-59%: 1 student
- Present Rate 60-69%: 3 students
- Present Rate 70-79%: 16 students
- Present Rate 80-87%: 50 students
- Present Rate 88-90%: 21 students

# When Your Child is Absent

It is important for you to communicate with the school when your child is absent so that their absence is documented correctly.

- Please call, email, or Talking Points message your child's teacher and/or the main office.
- If your child visits a doctor, please ask for a note to submit to the school.
- If you are unsure if your child should stay home or attend school, please feel free to contact our school nurse, Mrs. Fisher, at 443-809-6042.

# Half-Day Attendance

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- In order for students to be marked present for a half day, they must attend school for at least 2 hours.
- Students attending school for less than 2 hours will be marked absent for the full day.
- In order for students to be marked present full day, they must attend school for at least 4 hours.

# Tardy Arrivals & Early Dismissals

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- Although tardy arrivals and early dismissals do not impact your child's attendance rate, they impact your child's access to a fully engage in the school environment.
- A child's success in school includes having a strong sense of belonging that is built through socialization.
- Tardy arrivals and early dismissal data appear on report cards each marking period and cumulatively.

## Why does it matter if I'm late?



- I am rushed to eat breakfast, or I miss breakfast
- I miss the beginning of the lesson
- I don't know what to do
- I have to stop others listening and learning to ask them what to do
- I may have to disturb others to get to my seat
- The teacher may be in the middle of giving instructions



# Bedford Tardy Data

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2022-23 School Year – Based on 317 students enrolled

Number of Days Tardy	Number of Students	Percent of Students
0 Days	62 students	19.6%
1 to 9 Days	157 students	49.6%
10 to 19 Days	50 students	15.7%
20 to 29 Days	15 students	4.7%
30 to 39 Days	16 students	5.0%
40 to 59 Days	10 students	3.2%
60 to 99 Days	7 students	2.2%



# What Supports are Available

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- Contact Mrs. Lucas, Community Schools Facilitator, [tlucas5@bcps.org](mailto:tlucas5@bcps.org) or 443-809-9584
- Contact Mrs. Fisher, School Nurse, [rfisher3@bcps.org](mailto:rfisher3@bcps.org) or 443-809-6242
- Contact Mr. Thomas, School Counselor, [cthomas2@bcps.org](mailto:cthomas2@bcps.org) or 443-809-1200
- Contact Mrs. Johnson, Front Office Secretary, [njohnson11@bcps.org](mailto:njohnson11@bcps.org) or 443-809-1200

# COVID Guidance

- If your child tests positive for COVID-19, they need to remain home for 5 days after their symptoms began.
  - Example: Symptoms started on Friday; Saturday is day 1
- Notify your child's teacher or school nurse. This impacts how your child's attendance is recorded.
- Your child must mask for days 6 through 10.
  - If you test your child on day 6 and they test negative, they do not need to mask.
  - A negative test is NOT required to return to school!



## Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

### DID YOU KNOW?

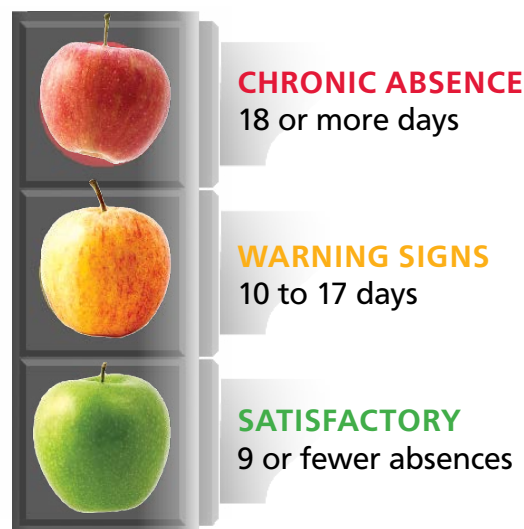
- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just 1 or 2 days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

**Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Eventually good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and college.**

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Keep your child healthy and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your children to their teachers and classmates before school starts.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor or another parent.
- Try to schedule non-Covid-19 related medical appointments and extended trips when school isn't in session.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- If you are concerned that your child may have Covid-19, call your school for advice.
- If your child must stay home due to illness or quarantine, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home.

### When Do Absences Become a Problem?



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

# ATTENDANCE

## in the early grades

Many of our youngest students miss 10 percent of the school year—about 18 days a year or just two days every month. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten, and even preK, can predict lower test scores, poor attendance and retention in later grades, especially if the problem persists for more than a year. Do you know how many young children are chronically absent in your school or community?

### Who Is Affected

Kindergarten and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom.

1 in 10 kids

in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it's as high as 1 in 4.<sup>1</sup>



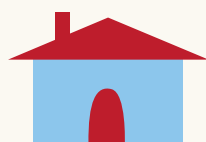
2 in 10  
low-income kids

miss too much school. They're also more likely to suffer academically.<sup>1</sup>



2.5 in 10  
homeless kids

are chronically absent.<sup>2</sup>



4 in 10  
transient kids

miss too much school when families move.<sup>2</sup>

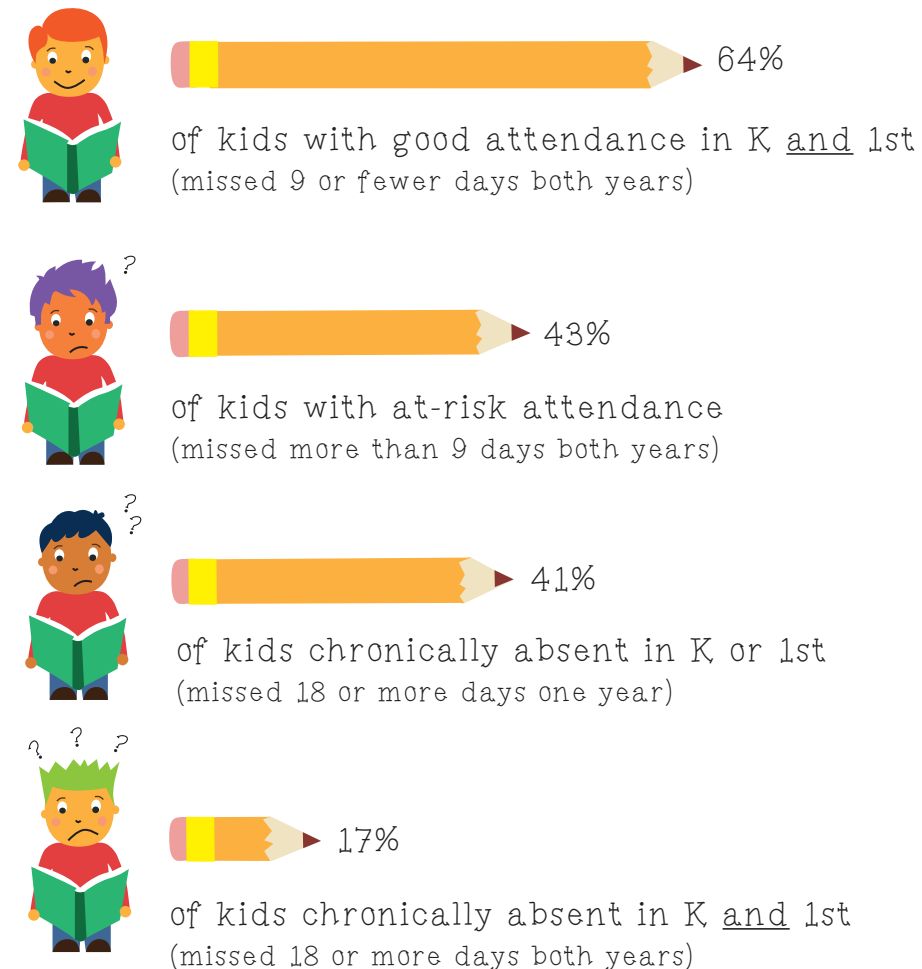


### Why It Matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?<sup>3</sup>



### What We Can Do

#### Engage Families



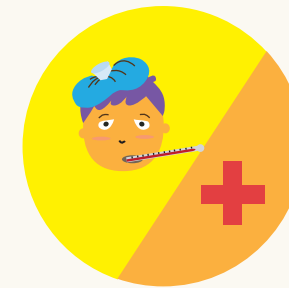
Many parents and students don't realize how quickly early absences can add up to academic trouble. Community members and teachers can educate families and build a culture of attendance through early outreach, incentives and attention to data.

#### Fix Transportation



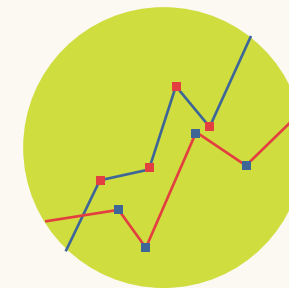
The lack of a reliable car, or simply missing the school bus, can mean some students don't make it to class. Schools, transit agencies and community partners can organize car pools, supply bus passes or find other ways to get kids to school.

#### Address Health Needs



Health concerns, particularly asthma and dental problems, are among the leading reasons students miss school in the early grades. Schools and medical professionals can work together to give children and families health care and advice.

#### Track the Right Data



Schools too often overlook chronic absence because they track average attendance or unexcused absences, not how many kids miss too many days for any reason. Attendance Works has free data-tracking tools.

These are a few steps that communities and schools can take. How do you think you can help?

<sup>1</sup> Chang, Hedy; Romero, Mariajose, *Present, Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*, National Center for Children in Poverty: NY: NY, September 2008.

<sup>2</sup> *Chronic Absence in Utah*, Utah Education Policy Center at the University of Utah, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> *Attendance in Early Elementary Grades: Association with Student Characteristics, School Readiness and Third Grade Outcomes*, Applied Survey Research, May 2011.