

OUR PARENTS

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Know the DoDEA attendance policy.
- Report absences immediately.
- Model the value of education and stress the importance of attendance.
- Send your child to school every day, starting in kindergarten.
- Instill in your child that attendance is non-negotiable, unless they are truly sick.
- Ask teachers or the principal for missed school work, arrange to pick it up, and make sure your child completes the work.
- Contact the school if you become aware of an absence.
- Take an interest in your child's school work and be involved in the school as much as possible.
- Check each night to ensure your child understands and completes the day's homework assignments.
- Locate potential sources of anxiety.
- If your child frequently appears upset or reluctant to go to school and cannot tell you why, schedule an appointment with their teacher or school counselor to talk about possible sources of the anxiety.
- Keep updated on school events and announcements such as back-to-school night and parent-teacher conferences.

MORE RESOURCES

FIND THE ATTENDANCE TOOLKIT ON OUR WEBSITE
www.dodea.edu/attendance

- Attendance Policy
- Videos
- Posters
- Brochure



ATTENDANCE POLICY

KEY FEATURES

- Implementation of a system-wide attendance policy that is consistent with stateside schools.
- Attendance policy establishes 180 days of school required per year.
- Consistent implementation in all DoDEA schools .
- Students who have approved extended absences greater than 5 days are required to complete missed class work identified in the Student Education Plan.
- Increased communication with parents regarding their child's daily school attendance.
- Referral of students with seven days of absences to the local Command for appropriate intervention and support.



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

MORE FACTS AND STATISTICS

- Family involvement in a child's educational program can improve school attendance (Epstein & Sheldon, 2002).
- Early identification of students with attendance problems and targeted interventions to support students increases attendance rates (Chang & Romero, 2008).
- Nationally, nearly 1 in 10 kindergarten and first grade students miss a month of school every year. Even at this early age, absences start to affect student performance. (Attendance Works).
- Students with poor kindergarten attendance rates, missing 10 days or more, gained roughly 14 percent fewer literacy skills than their peers with average attendance rates (Read, 2010).
- Students who are chronically absent from school score an average of 15-20 percent lower on state assessments than students who attend school more regularly (Baltimore Education Research Consortium, 2009).
- 90 percent of youth in juvenile detention have a history of chronic absenteeism (Colorado Foundation for Families and Children Study, 2002).

IMPORTANCE

OF ATTENDANCE

- Research has shown that there is a high correlation among school attendance, academic performance and success.
- School attendance impacts the likelihood of students graduating from high school.
- School absence is the greatest cause of poor academic achievement.



- Learning is progressive. Students who miss school miss out on carefully planned sequences of instruction. New lessons build on the previous day's instruction.
- Lectures, discussions, learning activities, and social interactions cannot be made up.
- Regular school attendance fosters the development of student independent behaviors and responsibility.