

## ATTENDANCE: A KEY TO YOUR STUDENT'S SUCCESS

Research has proven a high correlation between regular school attendance and academic performance. Attendance is the key to high school graduation and college and career readiness. Students who regularly attend school are more likely to read on grade level, less likely to drop out of school, and more likely to graduate on time.

A child who misses a day of school misses a day of learning. Although 2 days per month may not seem like a lot, it translates into 20 days per year or one month of school. Over the course of thirteen years of school, it translates into 260 days, or nearly 1 ½ years of school.

Schools are responsible for teaching your child. But schools can't do their job if your child is absent. Learning builds day by day. Being on time matters too. A student who is 10 minutes late daily will miss 30 hours of instruction during the school year. Although students can copy notes or make up missing assignments, they can never regain other important factors in learning: the discussion, the questions, the group interactions, the explanations by the teacher, and the thinking that makes learning interesting and meaningful. Your child's success in school depends on having a solid educational background that can only be gained through **regular school attendance**. Attending school regularly helps students feel better about school --- and themselves.

### Here Are Ways You Can Improve Your Child's School Attendance:

- Talk with your child about the importance of attending school regularly and on time.
- Ensure your child goes to school every day unless he/she is truly sick.
- Establish a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpack the night before.
- Schedule family trips and doctor appointments after school when possible.
- Develop back up plans for getting your child to school if something comes up.
- Talk to teachers, counselors, and school support staff for advice if your child feels anxious about going to school.
- When your child is absent, send in a written note and be sure to include the date(s) and reason for the absence.

**LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO SHOW THAT EVERY SCHOOL DAY  
COUNTS!**

**THE RESEARCH IS CLEAR. ATTENDANCE IS THE SINGLE MOST  
IMPORTANT FACTOR IN SCHOOL SUCCESS.**



**School success starts  
with attendance**

# TO SEND OR NOT TO SEND



How does a parent decide when to send a child to school and when to keep a child home?

Maryland State Law requires parents to send a child to school every day. Every Baltimore County Public School has a full-time school nurse, who is able to evaluate children who develop signs of illness during the school day. The daily decision should be weighted in the favor of sending your child to school.

However, in the best interest of the child and to minimize the spread of germs, it is important for parents to know when it is safe to send a child to school and when it is best to keep a child home.

## A child may safely be sent to school if he/she:

- Does not have a fever, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Has a chronic health problem and you and his/her health care professional have a plan for meeting health needs at school.
- Has a mild cough or cold symptoms without fever or breathing difficulties.
- Has a temperature under 100 degrees for 24 hours (wait six hours after the last dose of Tylenol or Ibuprofen before checking the temperature).
- Has a stomach ache but does not have a fever, vomiting, or diarrhea.

## A child should be kept at home from school and you should consult with his/her health care provider if he/she has:

- a fever of more than 100 degrees.
- vomited two or more times (as a single episode of vomiting can be caused by variety of non-illness related issues).
- diarrhea two or more times (a single episode of diarrhea is not a symptom of illness).
- severe pain.
- Feel free to call the school nurse at your child's school if you are not sure if it is safe to send your child to school.