



Attendance Matters - 10/01/18

A missed day of school is a missed opportunity to learn. Attendance matters.

What counts as an 'absence?'

"Absence" as defined by the Connecticut State Board of Education, includes any absence - an excused absence, unexcused absence, disciplinary absence, or in-school suspension; any of these that are greater than or equal to one-half of a school day.

What does it mean to be 'chronically absent?'

'Chronically absent' is the term assigned to a child whose total number of absences during a school year is equal to or more than 10% of the total number of days the student is enrolled. In Seymour, a student will be chronically absent with 18 or

more absences. Please note, excused absences count in this total.

Why does it matter if a student is 'chronically absent?'

- Significant absences can translate into students being unable to master reading skills, failing subjects and even dropping out of high school.
- By middle school, chronic absence is one of the leading indicators of dropping out.
- By 9th grade, significant absences are a better predictor of a student dropping out than test scores. This trend starts as early as kindergarten and continues through high school, contributing to achievement gaps and ultimately to increased dropout rates.
- Schools are required to report attendance data to the CT Department of Education. This data is factored into how school districts are evaluated for their effectiveness annually in the Next Generation Accountability Report.

Did you know?

In Seymour there are consequences for chronic absences or habitual tardiness:

- Students who do not attend school for a minimum of four (4) hours due to illness or other reason will not be allowed to participate in any school related activity on the day of the absence.
- A student is reported to the state as 'chronically absent' when reaching absence of 18 days (10% of the school year).
- For the K-8 level, students absent more than twenty (20) days each school year may be considered for retention. These absences include all legitimate illness absences. Evidence of extraordinary illness must include statements from a physician.
- Accumulation of tardiness to school or to class may result in detention, suspension, or revocation of student driving permissions.

Does it matter if my child arrives late or is dismissed early?

- Starting the day on time sets the stage for the day. Arriving late contributes to a feeling of disconnectedness. Morning announcements, morning greetings, and the few minutes of social time all matter to your child.
- Arriving late or leaving early interrupts the day and contributes to your child missing out on important information.
- Every minute of the educational process is important. Missing part of a day, even a few minutes, impacts instruction and learning.

What can parents do to help promote good attendance?

Parents and families are essential partners in promoting good attendance because they have the responsibility for making sure their children get to school every day.

- Your child is more likely to want to go to school when he/she feels connected to caring adults who notice whether they show up. Talk to your child to find out who your child is connected to so you can help promote that positive connection.
- Make getting your child to school on time every day a top priority.
- Utilize the bus if mornings drop-offs are a challenge. We have great buses!
- Monitor your child's attendance in the PowerSchool Portal. If you have questions on the data, call your building administrator.
- Attend all meetings regarding attendance that the school schedules with you and ask for help if you are struggling. We all want the same thing - to have our students in school, learning and being successful!

We hope this information helps us work together to ensure all children can get to school every day so they have an opportunity to learn, grow, and realize their dreams.

Dauerty, Lee-Ann

From: Wilson, Michael
Sent: Monday, October 1, 2018 8:48 AM
To: Dauerty, Lee-Ann
Subject: RE: ATTENDANCE MATTERS submitted by JMagri 100118

Yes Please

From: Dauerty, Lee-Ann
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2018 8:45 AM
To: Wilson, Michael
Subject: ATTENDANCE MATTERS submitted by JMagri 100118

OK to post on FB?