

Readingrockets

School Attendance: A Key to Success

By: Colorín Colorado (2008)

Did you know that school attendance is one of the most important factors in a student's academic success? Being at school every day ensures that students won't miss important lessons, assignments, activities, exams, and school events. This article suggests some things you can do to help your child get the most of each school day, and offers tips for ways you can make sure your child doesn't fall behind when a school absence necessary.

One of the most important things your child can do to achieve academic success is also one of the most basic: going to school every day. In fact, research has shown that your child's attendance record may be the biggest factor influencing her academic success.

Benefits of daily attendance

By attending class regularly, your child is more likely to keep up with the daily lessons and assignments, and take quizzes and tests on time.

There are other benefits as well:

- **Achievement:** [San Diego Unified School District](#) found that students who attended school regularly were more likely to pass reading and math assessments than students who didn't attend school regularly.
- **Opportunity:** For older students, being in school every day gives them a chance to learn more about college and scholarship opportunities, and to take the important exams they need to build a successful academic record.
- **Exposure to the English language:** Regular school attendance can also help students who are learning English by giving them the chance to master the skills and information they need more quickly and accurately — even in other subjects!
- **Being part of the school community:** Just by being present at school, your child is learning how to be a good citizen by participating in the school community, learning valuable social skills, and developing a broader world view.
- **The importance of education:** Your commitment to school attendance will also send a message to your child that education is a priority for your family, going to school every day is a critical part of educational success, and that it's important to take your responsibilities seriously — including going to school.

Students who miss days, weeks, or months of school at a time will have a difficult time passing their courses and catching up to their peers. For older students, prolonged absences may make it very difficult to graduate from high school.

Note: This information was adapted from the San Diego Unified School's District attendance website, [Every Day Counts!](#)

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/28842/?theme=print>

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Springville High School Attendance Policy
Purpose and Philosophy

Springville High School recognizes that there is a direct and substantial correlation between school attendance and academic achievement. SHS also recognizes that as students develop reliable attendance habits, they are demonstrating a life skill that will positively impact their lives while in school and after graduation. As such, SHS is committed to forming a cooperative alliance with parents and students in order to improve attendance.

It is the objectives of the Springville High School attendance policy:

- 1) to help all students experience academic success by maximizing instructional time.
- 2) to help all of our students develop habits of punctuality that will help them both in school and in life.
- 3) to eliminate the disruption that tardiness and truancy causes to the classroom learning environment.

It is also our intent to help our students meet their legal obligations set out under Nebo School District's Attendance Policy, JED and the Utah compulsory education requirements, Utah Code Ann. 53-A-11-101, et seq. While recognizing that it is primarily the student's responsibility to have consistent and punctual attendance, SHS hopes to work with students and parents to remediate truancy in order to avoid referral to district or juvenile court.

Student Responsibilities:

In order for students to increase their chances of academic success and to stay in good standing with the school, students should exhibit the following behaviors:

- 1) Be to class on time and ready to learn every period.
- 2) If you must leave school for any reason, please have your parents check you out through the attendance office. You must also check back in at the attendance office if you return to school that day.
- 3) It is your responsibility to make up any unexcused absences or tardies. You can make these up in approved detention halls or study labs (Please see attendance office or web-site for approved detention make up opportunities).

Parent Responsibilities:

In order to help their students succeed academically and to help them stay in good standing with the school, parents should do the following:

- 1) If your student misses school for an authorized reason (see excused absences), you may excuse that absence within the two following school days. The two day limit, however, does not extend beyond the end of a grading period (Parents who feel their situation warrants exception – see due process procedures).
- 2) Please verify that your student has checked out with the attendance office before leaving school. (Calling before or sending a note with your student will simplify the check out process).
- 3) Please check SIS attendance regularly to track your student's attendance and contact teachers before there is an extended absence. This information can be found on the district web site under the parent tab at www.nebo.edu.

Excused Absences:

Parents must call and excuse an absence within 48 hours if a student missed a class for any of the following reasons:

an illness, the death of family member or close friend, an approved school activity, a medical, dental or orthodontic appointment, a family emergency, a family activity or an absence excused through a health care or other accommodation plan, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA),

or a Section 504 accommodation Plan.

In specific cases of excessive absenteeism, administration may require a doctor's note to excuse absences or, in cases of prolonged illness, place a student in the home and hospital program.

Grade Computation:

Springville High School is committed to the ideal that teacher instruction cannot be duplicated. Direct instruction, group discussion and work, and similar classroom activities are difficult to replicate through make up. As such, SHS students should be aware that attendance factors into their classroom grades. Teachers can factor in up to 20 percent of their final grade based on attendance - this may be higher for participation courses or with written principal approval.

Rewards for Good Attendance:

A variety of rewards will be offered to students who demonstrate regular and punctual school attendance.

- 1) Students who clear all detentions by the end of the term will be eligible for a prize drawing.
 - 2) Key Cards" will be given to those with perfect or greatly improved attendance
 3. Students with strong attendance will be eligible to attend regular attendance reward activities.
 - 4) Students with detentions cleared by the end of the year will be eligible for an early yearbook party.
 - 5) Students with detentions cleared by the end of the year may be eligible to schedule off campus classes.
- 60 Students who demonstrate appropriate attendance patterns, and meet the following criteria may earn some detention credit at the end of the term: one, the student did not reach the level of attendance warning, two, the student had no documented sluffs, three, the student passed all classes, and four, the student was approved for detention credit by SHS administration.

Consequences for Poor Attendance:

Students are required to attend all classes on time unless properly excused. Repeated truancy may result in detention, a concern letter, an attendance contract, a schedule change, tracking, no participation status, loss of parking privileges, a prescribed schedule, suspension, alternative placement, expulsion, Nebo Attendance Court, Juvenile Court referral, Board release or other school interventions