

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE

Each new school year begins with enthusiasm and excitement, and students are eager to attend each day. They are motivated to attend and become involved in new classes, be with old friends, and get off to a good start.

After the first few weeks some of that enthusiasm may be lost and attendance may start to be a problem, especially with older students. It is up to parents to see that children attend school regularly so that they may benefit from what is being taught.

Regular school attendance is important for many reasons. First, children only learn school materials when they are at school. Most lessons are sequential in nature, with each lesson building on a previous lesson. Even though some of the work from a missed day can be made up, the lessons that were missed will not be taught again.

The second reason to stress regular school attendance is to help children develop the habit which will carry over to job situations. Children who think it is acceptable to miss school when the notion strikes them become workers who make excuses to stay home. Developing a habit of responsible attendance is important to success in the workplace.

Finally, regular school attendance is necessary for students to make passing grades. Only excused absences for illness or family emergencies are acceptable. Vacations, shopping trips, or other activities should be scheduled during non-school time. Work that is missed during unexcused absences cannot be made up and will affect a student's grade.

When parents stress attendance and the value of education and communicate this importance to children, unnecessary absences from school can be reduced.

LEARNING DISABILITIES

A learning disability refers to one or more significant deficits in the learning process. Children with learning disabilities may demonstrate a discrepancy between expected and actual achievement, and might be identified by some of the following characteristics.

1. Have average, nearly average, or above average intelligence.
2. Are unable to sit still or concentrate for long time periods.
3. Are doing poorly in one or more subjects in school.
4. Have a short attention span.
5. Are easily distracted by noise or movement.
6. Have poor coordination.
7. Have trouble listening and remembering.
8. Lack verbal skills and are unable to express themselves clearly.
9. Do not adjust well to change.
10. Tend to be impulsive and act without thinking.
11. Have poor reading and writing skills.
12. Have trouble with a reversal of letters or words.
13. Have trouble understanding words or concepts.
14. Are easily discouraged and/or frustrated.
15. Have general behavioral problems.

It is important that a student with a learning disability be identified as early as possible. When parents suspect that there might be a learning problem, teachers can be notified and steps taken to determine the problem. If a learning disability exists, the school can help by placing the child in a special program, developing an individual program for the child, or working with the child in small group activities. Learning disabilities do not disappear, but can be dealt with and overcome.

"Children may close their ears to advice, but they keep their eyes open to example."