

Pay Attention to Attendance: Keep Your Child On Track in Middle and High School

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than **9 days of school each year** to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- By 6th grade, **absenteeism is one of three signs** that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a **better predictor** of graduation rates **than** 8th grade **test scores**.
- Missing **10 percent**, or about **18 days**, of the school year can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- Students can be **chronically absent** even if they **only miss a day or two every few weeks**.
- Attendance is an important **life skill** that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job.

Make School Attendance A Priority

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school everyday and make that the expectation.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during your child's live class connect schedule whenever possible.
- Don't let your child skip logging into school unless they are truly sick, especially in the virtual environment where they can likely adjust their environment, review class recordings, and complete homework later in the day.

Help Your Tween/Teen Stay Engaged

- Find out if your child feels engaged by their class content and/or live sessions and make sure they are not missing class because of behavioral issues.
- Stay on top of academic progress and seek help from teachers or advisor when necessary. Progress can be easily monitored through the Learning Coach account 24/7.
- Make sure school staff know how to contact you by keeping your address, phone number, and email number up to date with their advisor.
- Encourage meaningful after school activities including support groups, clubs, and other social opportunities. Feel welcome to explore local opportunities within your resident district and ask if your student can still participate while an ISMN student.

Communicate With The School

- Know the school's attendance policy and provide incentives and motivation at home. Make sure that your student knows not only the truancy consequences but the risk of developing poor attendance habits and this impact on future jobs or opportunities.
- Talk to teachers or advisor if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on either inside or outside of school.
 - Check on your student's attendance often to be sure absences are not piling up.
- Ask for support from school staff, community programs, or other Learning Coaches if you're having trouble getting your child to regularly attend school.

Students have better performance, particularly online, when their Learning Coach plays an active role in their schooling. Thank you for your guidance and support in your very important role. We are thankful for you!