



Show up. Every day. It matters.

## Reasons for Approved Absences in the Springfield Public Schools

Student illness

Student's medical or dental appointment

Death in the family

Observance of religious holiday

Court appearance for the student

Daily attendance, at all grade levels, leads to increased academic success and high school graduation.

## What You Can Do

- Always contact the school when you know your child will be absent and make sure the school has your current phone number. (Call 787-7276 to update.)
- Schedule appointments for after school whenever possible. If your child has to go to an appointment during the school day, schedule it as early or late in the day as possible.
- Check on your child's attendance with the school to be sure absences are approved and that unapproved absences aren't piling up.
- Keep in mind that missing 10 or more days in a year is what is called "chronic absence." Missing that many days, excused or unexcused, can impact grades.

The Stay in School initiative engages the entire community - youth, schools, caring adults, media, business leaders and others in reaching out to those responsible for children in Springfield Public Schools to play a role in encouraging increased daily attendance.



[www.StayinSchoolSpringfield.org](http://www.StayinSchoolSpringfield.org)





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## Attendance matters at every age.

- Pre-school attendance begins a strong habit of attendance.
- Kindergarten and elementary school age students may be set up to struggle academically in their later years by missing school. Missing 10 or more days can impact reading skills by the end of third grade.
- By middle school, chronic absence is a key warning sign of a student's chances of dropping out.
- A high school student's access to scholarships for college can be influenced by his or her attendance record.

The whole community can play a part in improving attendance.

## Spread the word that:

- On average K-12 students in the Springfield Public Schools attend school 93% of the time. This means youth are missing 13 days per year.
- Missing just 1.5 days per month for any reason means a child is at risk of having to repeat a grade. Even excused absences matter.
- It is never too late to help children develop good habits that will stay with them through high school, college and the workplace.
- Showing up to school is the first step toward academic success.
- Attending school regularly helps students feel better about school and about themselves.



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