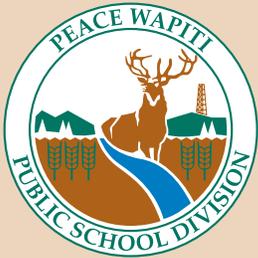




# HERE FOR ME. HERE FOR YOU.

Working together to improve student attendance.

March 2019



## Regular attendance builds a solid foundation

Being present at school and engaging in learning is like building a brick wall.

For the wall to be strong and secure, the foundation must be solid. If bricks are missing, the strength of the wall will be compromised.

Days absent are the missing bricks which create gaps in knowledge and skills that can lead to future challenges, ranging from issues with student achievement to future career success.

Resources:  
• [www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org)  
• [www.risdonpkps.sa.edu.au/docs/whats%20happening/attendance%20%20flyer.pdf](http://www.risdonpkps.sa.edu.au/docs/whats%20happening/attendance%20%20flyer.pdf)

## How being absent or late impacts a student

Consistent attendance is like a book: if you miss chapters 3, 8, and 12, how can you understand what's going on in the story? When students miss school, they are missing valuable instruction in multiple content areas that simply cannot be replaced, making complete understanding difficult to achieve. It's not just absences – it's being late as well. When students are late, it sets the tone for the day – they are always trying to catch up.

They also miss out on valuable socializing and camaraderie that occurs

while students are getting settled and prepared for the day.

For the student who struggles with organization and keeping up, being late severely impacts how their day is going to proceed.

All of this creates stress for the child and they don't seem to perform as well when they are worried about having been absent or late.

Thank you for your continued support in working with us to provide your child with the very best learning opportunities and optimal success.

## Absences are missed learning opportunities

When a child misses school, they are missing valuable learning time. Parents and caregivers want their children to be successful at school, achieving at the best of their ability, making friends, feeling safe and being safe with others.

### Research shows that when children are regularly absent from school,

- valuable teaching and learning time is missed.
- inconsistent practice means that skills are not learned or are easily forgotten.
- engagement is affected because the student is uncertain of the task.
- anxiety about learning and relationships can also lead to behaviour change.
- the learning program for all (students and teacher) is disrupted.
- the continuous learning process is interrupted, resulting in 'patchy' understanding.

## What the research says:

### Being in school matters

The majority of U.S. states don't analyze attendance data to determine how many and which students are chronically absent. Oregon's data review determined that low-income students are at the highest risk of missing significant amounts of school. Students with the highest absenteeism typically scored lower on assessment tests. The report also looks at schools with high-risk populations that beat the odds simply by maintaining low absence rates.

[Why Being in School Matters: Chronic Absenteeism in Oregon Public Schools](#)

