


**Increasing Academic Success Through Reducing Chronic Absence:  
What Parents Need to Know!**

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Center for Schools and Communities  
*with assistance from*



attendance  
works.org

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**How does attending school regularly help children?**



Share with a partner (5 min)  
Group discussion (10 min)

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**Why does school attendance matter?**



- **Time on task:** Students who fall behind have a hard time catching up
- **Habit building:** Regular attendance builds persistence, essential for success in school and life
- **Exposure:** School exposes children to language-rich environments
- **Engagement:** Attendance indicates an engaged student; absences can signal disengagement
- **Classroom churn:** Too many students missing too many days slow down classroom instruction

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**What terms are used to describe school attendance?**

**Chronic Absence** is missing 10% or more school over the course of an academic year for *any* reason.

**Satisfactory Attendance** is missing 5% or less over the course of an academic year for any reason.

**Truancy** refers *only* to unexcused absences and is defined by each state, according to NCLB.

**Average Daily Attendance** is the % of enrolled students who attend school each day.

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**When does 90% ≠ A?**



**Chronic Absence**  
Missing 18 days or more out of 180 day school year

**Warning Signs**  
Missing 9-17 days

**Satisfactory Attendance**  
Missing less than 9 days

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**How does kindergarten absences affect academics, especially for poor kids?**

Among low-income children, chronic K absence predicted lower 5th grade achievement.



Absenteeism in kindergarten	Reading	Math
0-3.3%	~88	~85
3.3-6.6%	~85	~82
6.6-10.0%	~82	~80
≥ 10.0%	~78	~75

Source: National Center for Children in Poverty

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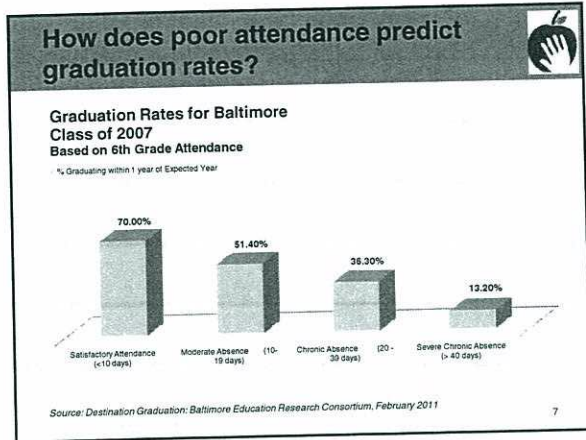
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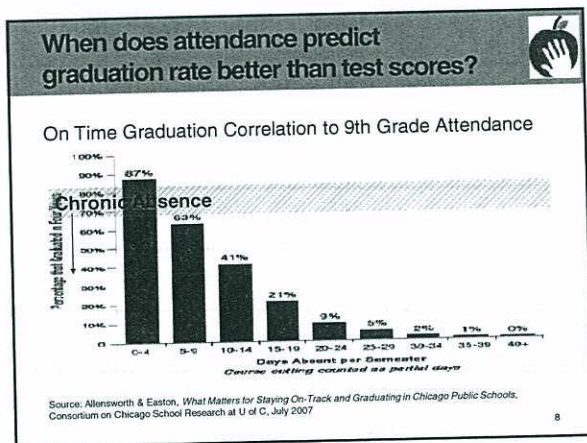
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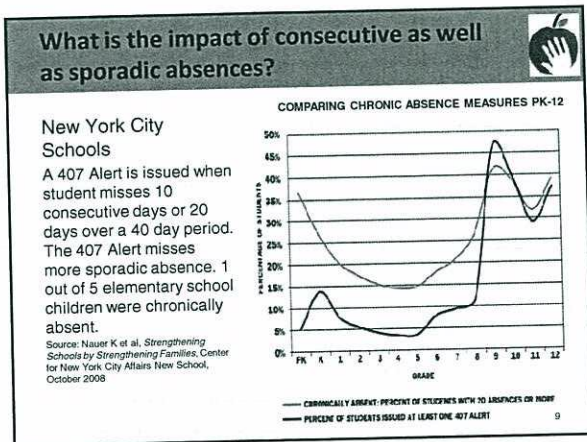
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### What are the 3 "A"s of a School Success Framework



- Attendance every day
- Achievement every year
- Attainment over time

Developed by Annie E. Casey Foundation & America's Promise Alliance  
More information at [www.americaspromise.org/parentengagement](http://www.americaspromise.org/parentengagement)

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### What helps children go to school every day?



Share with a partner (5 min)  
Group discussion (10 min)

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### How does a comprehensive responses help improve school attendance?



The pyramid diagram is divided into five horizontal layers, with an arrow on the left pointing from 'Universal' at the bottom to 'Targeted' at the top. From bottom to top, the layers are:

- Universal:** Quality Early Care and Education Experiences, Access to Preventative Health Care, High Quality Engaging Educational Program, Family Engagement in School, Roll Regularly Taken in Caring Manner, Parent Education & Peer Support, Attendance Incentives
- Targeted:** Early outreach & case management to families with poor attendance
- Targeted:** Coordinated public agency and legal crisis response

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