



# Pirate Presence

**School success starts with showing up. Attending school every day improves chances of graduation, college, and success in life.**

Our goal at Platte County School District is to ensure that every student attends regularly. Attending school every day improves chances of graduation, college, and success in life. It's a hard fact - students who miss more school get frustrated, fall behind on their credits and ultimately have a higher chance of dropping out.

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. But, we also know that when students miss too much school - regardless of the reason - it can cause them to fall academically. Students are less likely to succeed if they are chronically absent - which means missing two days every month, or 18 or more days over the course of a school year.

## ATTENDANCE RESEARCH SHOWS:

- Children chronically absent in kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade are **much less likely to read at grade level** by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- By 6<sup>th</sup> grade, chronic absence is a **proven early warning sign for students at risk for dropping out** of school.
- By 9<sup>th</sup> grade, good attendance can **predict graduation rates** even better than 8<sup>th</sup> grade test scores.

Let's give our students the best chance to achieve success this year by helping our children get to class every day. Outlined here are some of the strategies our school will use to ensure consistent attendance.

## Attendance Tracking and Automated Calls

Attendance is taken each hour or every time a teacher meets with a new group of students. Around 10:00 a.m. each school day, an automated call will be sent to parents of students counted absent without prior notice of the absence.

## Parent Notification and Student Conferences

Students whose attendance rate falls below 91%, will meet with our school's attendance administrator to identify areas to encourage increased attendance. Parents will be contacted to review these goals and offer support. Students whose attendance rate falls below 90% will be paired with a staff member, who will serve as an attendance accountability partner. Students whose attendance rate falls below 87% will be referred to the Care Team, a small group that will meet with a social worker and/or counselor regularly to determine further supports as needed. This would be in addition to the staff member serving as an accountability partner.

## Additional Information

In class, on time, keeps students on track. Good attendance habits carry throughout life. When missing school is unavoidable, please call the school at 816-858-2822.

**Pirate Presence: Attendance Information**

