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## Did you know?

- An absence is an absence ~ any time a student misses school, it can affect student performance
- Good attendance is directly related to academic achievement
- Communities who set an expectation of regular school attendance see better outcomes for their children and youth



- Chronic absence (missing 10 percent of school days) in kindergarten is associated with lower academic performance in 1st grade
  - Nationally, one in 10 kindergarten and 1st grade students miss a month of school every year
    - In some districts, as many as one in four students in the primary grades are missing too much school time

- It's important to address the problem in the early grades before a student heads off track academically and bad attendance habits become entrenched
- By 6th grade chronic absence is a clear predictor of drop-out
- By 9th grade, missing 20 percent of the school year is a better predictor of dropping out than test scores
- Communities with high levels of school attendance have fewer day-time crimes and lower rates of first-time drug use

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## It takes all of us...

### School

- In order for students to be at school and successful, school staff will work to develop positive relationships with students and families.
- Good communication is critical: with students, families, and within the school setting.
- Accurate records of attendance are key to student safety and increasing attendance rates.
- Schools need to be supportive of students and their families, addressing the barriers that get in the way of consistent student attendance.
- Provide early intervention and support for students and families who are having difficulty with attendance.

### Parent(s) / Guardian(s)

- Insist that children attend school each and every day.
- Know and understand what schools consider to be an excused absence. Do not allow students to miss school by calling to cover an unexcused absence.
- Communicate with the school regularly regarding student illnesses or family emergencies, as well as make-up work.
- Don't be afraid to ask the school for help when barriers arise that get in the way of consistent attendance.
- Ensure that students are getting enough sleep each night.

### Students

- Attend each class every day.
- Show up to school and class on time and ready to learn.
- In the unlikely event that you have to be absent, check in with your teachers and make up the schoolwork that you missed.
- Let your family and someone at school know if there are problems at school so they can work to solve it.
- Work to become independent at getting to bed, getting up, and getting to school on time.

### Community

- Communicate an expectation of regular school attendance to any students you have contact with.
- Support schools and families in their efforts to increase daily attendance rates.

## CRCSD Attendance Procedures

- It is a District expectation that attendance is documented every day in every class by every teacher.
- Each school will follow the daily attendance procedures established and follow-up with families of students who have not been accounted for.
- School staff will work to establish positive relationships with families and students; identifying barriers and offering support.
- A pyramid of interventions has been designed for the elementary, middle school, and high school levels that include supports at the following levels:

### **Tier I: Contact with Family**

- 0-2 absences / trimester (for students with identified attendance issues)
- 3 absences / trimester (all other students)

### **Tier II: Family Meeting and Attendance Plan**

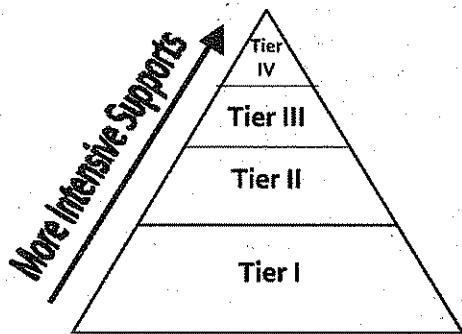
- 4-6 absences / trimester

### **Tier III: Family Meeting and District Contract**

- 7-9 absences / trimester

### **Tier IV: Truancy Officer and County Attorney**

- 10+ absences / trimester



**A Pyramid of Intervention**



**Cedar Rapids  
Community School District**

*Excellence for All*



**Cedar Rapids  
Community School District**



***Everybody,  
Every Day!  
Good Attendance Matters***



**A Community Effort to  
Increasing Attendance Rates  
in our Schools**

Office of Learning and Leadership

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