



High School & Beyond Planning — News & Information

February 2017 

9th Grade

Attendance Matters!

Students who miss more than **ten percent** (or just two days every month) of school days in one year are considered chronically absent.

Students miss school for a variety of reasons: illness, doctor's appointments, vacations, or skipping classes because of lack of interest or success. Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with schoolwork, dealing with a bully, or facing some other potentially serious difficulty. Regardless of the reason, the effects are real. ***Once freshmen missed ten percent of school days, their odds of graduating dropped below forty percent.***

What You Can Do

- **Be consistent** and prompt in your **attendance**. Get involved at school with a club or activity.
- Establish and **stick to the basic routines** (going to bed early, waking up on time, etc.) that will help you develop the habit of on-time attendance.
- **Going to school every day** is critical and important unless they are sick. If you are reluctant to go to school, try to find out why by working with a teacher, counselor or trusted adult.
- **Reach out for help** if you are experiencing tough times (e.g. transportation, unstable housing, loss of a job, health problems) There are resources for you through the school and district to help you problem solve or connect you to a needed resource.
- If you are absent, **work with the teacher** to make sure you have an opportunity to learn and make up for the academics missed.

Sources: [Practical Leadership](#) and [Attendance Works](#)



Have Naviance Questions?

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★ **New district-wide course catalog is now ONLINE!**

Visit Everett Public Schools' **Graduation site** to explore the **Graduation Toolkits!**



Did You Know?

When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.

Source: [Attendance Works](#)

Myth Buster

MYTH: In college, students can skip class whenever they want.

REALITY:

College students have more freedom in planning their schedule. It can be tempting to skip classes.

Depending on the size of the college and the size of the class, attendance may or may not be taken. Although that is starting to change with increased use of “clickers” – technology that polls an entire class, no matter the size.

While many classes don’t have an attendance policy, a student who skips runs the risk of getting behind on class notes and lectures. Many college professors test on textbook knowledge as well as in-class lectures and discussions. If students skip they run the risk of falling behind and even failing.

 [Check Student Online Grades Here!](#)

Student Checklist

- ☐ **Maintain daily routines**, such as finishing homework and getting a good night’s sleep.
- ☐ **Get involved.** Students who are more engaged with school clubs and activities are more likely to attend regularly. Explore activities such as sports, school government, or clubs.

Check out Naviance Enrichment Programs!

[colleges](#) > [enrichment programs](#)

- ☐ **Ask for help** from your family, teachers, guidance counselor or a caring adult if you’re skipping because you do not feel safe, are having challenges with your classes, or for another reason.

Family Checklist

- ☐ **Talk about the importance of showing up** to school everyday, make that the expectation.
- ☐ **Help your child maintain daily routines**, such as finishing homework and getting a good night’s sleep.
- ☐ **Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.**
- ☐ **Don’t let your child stay home unless truly sick.** Complaints of headaches or stomachaches may be signs of anxiety.
- ☐ **Talk to teachers** if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.
- ☐ **Check on your child’s attendance** to be sure absences are not piling up.
- ☐ **Ask for help** from school officials, afterschool programs, other parents or community agencies if you’re having trouble getting your child to school.

Source: [Attendance Works](#)



Visit readyssetgrad.org to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.