

Recent Research on Attendance and Achievement:

- *“A growing consensus of research points to chronic absence—defined by the national policy group **Attendance Counts** as **missing 10 percent of school** or more—as one of the strongest and most often overlooked indicators of a student’s risk of becoming disengaged, failing courses, and eventually dropping out of school.” ---**Education Week***
- *“Chronic absences have been shown to increase a young student’s **risk of being held back** and an older student’s **risk of dropping out**, but the report found the effects go beyond school. In Rhode Island, researchers found more than 75 percent of **all students involved in the juvenile justice system** had been chronically absent. The existing evidence could not be clearer,” the researchers conclude: Academic achievement from kindergarten forward, high school graduation, and postsecondary enrollment are **all highly sensitive to absenteeism**. Missing even some school can have negative impacts, especially for students who live in or near poverty. Missing a lot of school, at any time, throws students completely off track to educational success.” --**Education Week***

Monitoring attendance rates and intervening when absences are chronic make a difference in predicting and reducing dropout rates:

- A recent study demonstrated the impact of absentee rates not just in high schools, but in elementary grades. Data shows that 64% of students with no attendance problems scored proficient or advanced on reading at kindergarten and first grades. This same study reported that only 17% of students with high attendance risks were also reading at proficient or advanced levels for kindergarten and first grade students.
- 6th Graders who miss school are less likely to graduate according to a Baltimore study. The data indicated that when a comparison of attendance and drop outs in high school was made – among the high school drop outs, 60% of them had been identified as severely chronically absent students in 6th grade, while only 26% of the drop outs had been classified as essentially not absent from 6th grade.
- A Chicago study reported that 9th grade attendance was a good predictor of graduation rates. Students that had 0 to 4 days absent a semester had an 87% graduation rate; students with 25 to 29 days absent a semester had a 5% graduation rate, while students with 30 to 34 days absent a semester had a 2% graduation rate.

We know the difference that high school graduation can make in a students’ life. Overall, dropouts tend to enjoy a poorer quality of life; suffering higher unemployment rates, being less healthy, being more likely to use drugs, become imprisoned, require public assistance and live shorter lives.