

ENROLL ENGAGE ATTEND

Key Talking Points

Enroll

- Locally, enrollment is down by as much as 13% in some school districts.
- Nationally, K-12 enrollment dropped by roughly 3% in 2020-21 compared with the previous school year.
- Enrollment of kindergarteners declined by three times as much, while the Pre-K population plunged by 22%.
- Estimates that an additional 617,000 to 1.2 million 8th – 12th graders could drop out of school altogether because of the pandemic if efforts are not made to re-engage them for the fall.
- Survey of 16,000 parents, suggest that 24% were not convinced they would choose in-person for their children for the 2021-2022 school year

Engage

- Remember that teachers are your partners – keep the communication open and reach out regularly with questions.
- Remember that your child will be dealing with the stress of the ongoing crisis differently from you. Create a supportive and nurturing environment and respond positively to questions and expressions of their feelings. Show support and let your child know that it's not only okay, but normal, to feel frustrated or anxious at times like this.
- Make sure your children are not missing class because of challenges with behavioral issues or school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, contact the school and work with them to find a solution.
- Monitor your child's academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors when necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Seek help from school staff, other parents, or community agencies if you need support.
- Encourage persistence and celebrate your child's success!

Attend

- Attendance Works defines chronic absence as missing 10% or more of school - for any reason (that's just two days of school a month!)
- An additional 2.3 million to 4.6 million 8th – 12th graders were chronically absent from school during the 2020-21 school year, in addition to the 3.1 million who are chronically absent in non-pandemic years.
- 42% of students who are new to chronic absenteeism attended no school at all
- There are estimates that nearly one million American high school students are in danger of dropping out if concerted efforts aren't made to re-engage them.
- Student Attendance is Strongly Associated with Academic Success
 - **PK-1st Grade:** Students who attend regularly in the early grades perform better on measures of academic and social and emotional capacities.
 - **3rd Grade:** Students who attend school regularly are more likely to be able to read proficiently by the end of the third grade.
 - **Middle School:** Students who attend school regularly are more likely to have passing grades in middle school Stronger third grade reading skills
 - **High School:** By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
 - **College Completion:** Students who attend school regularly in high school are more likely to persist in college and graduate
- Strong Attendance Impacts Classroom Instruction
 - Teachers can introduce more new material to the classroom
 - Classmates learn at a faster pace when peer attendance is consistent
- Strong Attendance Positively Impacts Your School's Budget
 - School funding is often based on student attendance
 - Every minute your child is in school helps your school's budget
- Making sure your child attends school regularly helps students succeed and the whole school community thrive.