

# IS YOUR CHILD CHRONICALLY ABSENT FROM SCHOOL?



It's normal for kids to take a day off here and there during the school year due to illness or a family emergency. But, did you know that taking just two or more days off every month during the school year results in Chronic Absenteeism? It has become a national crisis in recent years, made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic and slow recovery. School administrators, teachers and parents are concerned.

## WHAT'S THE CAUSE?

Studies show that chronic absenteeism can impact any student, regardless of where they live, but some factors can place students at greater risk, like:

- Homelessness
- Poverty
- Personal issues at home
- Bullying
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Boredom
- Lack of Connectedness

## WHY CARE?

We want all students to attend school and do well. Being present at school benefits a child's learning and academic success. It helps students with their social and emotional learning and development, allows them to take advantage of all the learning opportunities available to them, and keeps them on track toward achieving educational goals and milestones.

## WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

There are ways parents can help prevent chronic absenteeism and poor educational outcomes for their child, including:

- Helping your child get to school on time, every day.
- Developing a back-up plan for getting your child to school when you are unable to.
- Asking your school administrators about any supports and services that can help your child maintain regular school attendance.
- Ensuring your child is not experiencing bullying or academic challenges that discourage school attendance.

## WHAT OTHER STRATEGY CAN HELP TO COMBAT CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM?

Sign up for the New Jersey Statewide Student Support Services (NJ4S)!

Through your child's school, and the local NJ4S Hub, supportive programs and services can be offered to students, whether through whole school programming such as general assemblies, small group programming, one-on-one services, and brief clinical intervention. Programs and services can also be offered at locations throughout the community to students and their families.

**Visit the NJ4S online portal at <https://nj4s.nj.gov> to learn about universal programs that are available to everyone. For more focused group or individual programming, schools should reach out to their local hub.**

### Resources:

NJ Department of Education Student Attendance and Strategies for Addressing School Absenteeism: <https://nj.gov/education/safety/sandp/attendance/>

# DON'T SKIP SCHOOL



**NJ STATEWIDE STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**  
LEARN MORE AT [NJ4S.NJ.GOV](http://NJ4S.NJ.GOV)