



Every Day Counts

How many absences are too many, and why does it matter?

THREE MOVES FOR THIS WEEK



Track the days

Mark absences on a calendar at home.

Cost: \$0



Talk early

Call the school after two or three absences to ask for help.

Cost: \$0



Share the reason

Tell the school why, so they can match support.

Cost: \$0

CALLING THE SCHOOL

1. My child has missed [number] days, and I want to talk about why.
2. Here is what has been making it hard.
3. What help is available?
4. Who should I stay in touch with?

MATCH THE RESPONSE TO THE REASON

Rides and work

Tell the school. Help may exist for transportation and schedules.

Worries

If your child fears school, ask for the counselor.

Health

Ask about a health plan for frequent illness.

Something at school

Share it. Schools can change unsafe situations.

AVOID THESE MISSTEPS

- x Waiting for a letter before talking to the school
- x Assuming excused days do not add up
- x Keeping a hard reason private when help may exist

HOW YOU WILL KNOW IT WORKS

Leading: Days missed this month

Lagging: Days missed this year

Evidence: Gentle-Genitty, IU Office of School Partnerships Q&A; (March 2025); RAND ASDP (2025); AEI Return to Learn Tracker (Malkus, 2026); FutureEd (2026); Economic Policy Institute (2018), Student Absenteeism: Who Misses School.



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