



every day counts

ATTEND TODAY -
ACHIEVE TOMORROW!

New from the Oakland Education Cabinet:

A Toolkit to Reduce Early Chronic Absence

Did you know that last year nearly one out of nine children in Oakland were chronically absent, meaning they missed almost a month of school? Help us interrupt this pattern and cultivate a habit of good attendance starting in kindergarten, or even earlier, so children have the opportunity to learn and succeed in school.

Developed by Oakland Education Cabinet's Attendance Support Committee, this Every Day Counts Toolkit provides ready-made materials that administrators, staff, teachers, and community partners can use for outreach to families and provides tools that schools can use to assess their own attendance practices and guide their improvement.

Why is reducing chronic absence so important?

- Students suffer academically if they miss 10 percent or more of school days.
- Studies show that children who miss too many days in kindergarten and 1st grade often have trouble mastering reading by the end of 3rd grade. Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves.
- When children are absent, schools get fewer resources from the state, resulting in less funding to pay for teachers and books. Chronic absence in kindergarten predicts chronic absence the following year, so even the attendance patterns of our youngest students affect funding down the road.

What is in the toolkit?

- Chronic absence is a problem that can be solved when schools, parents, and communities come together to develop solutions. This toolkit helps schools and community partners get started in taking steps toward those solutions. It contains:
 - ✓ Parent flyers in multiple languages
 - ✓ Talking points about attendance for multiple audiences
 - ✓ School self-assessments
 - ✓ Guidelines for establishing school-wide attendance incentives
 - ✓ Attendance certificates to incentivize and reward good attendance
 - ✓ Tips for getting in touch with hard to reach parents

How will I get a toolkit?

- Administrators from each elementary school will receive a toolkit at their Regional Back to School meetings. The components of the toolkit will also be available online at atschool.alcoda.org.

What is the Oakland Education Cabinet (OEC) Attendance Support Committee?

- The OEC Attendance Support Committee is comprised of local professionals who are committed to improving attendance and graduation rates in Oakland Unified School District and preparing students to actively participate in society and prosper as adults. The committee includes representatives from OUSD, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, business, faith, and community leaders, as well as national experts on reducing chronic absence.

