MISSING SCHOOL = MISSING OUT
MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY

DID YOU KNOW?  WHAT CAN YOU DO?

■ YOUR CHILD CAN SUFFER ACADEMICALLY if they miss 10 percent (about 17 days) of school. That can be just two days a month, and that can happen before you know it.

■ IT DOESN’T MATTER IF THESE ABSENCES ARE EXCUSED OR UNEXCUSED. They all represent lost time in the classroom and a lost opportunity for your child to learn.

■ ATTENDANCE MATTERS AS EARLY AS KINDERGARTEN. Studies show that children who miss too many days in kindergarten and first grade have trouble mastering reading.

■ BY 6TH GRADE, CHRONIC ABSENCE is a leading warning sign that a student will drop out.

■ ABSENCES CAN AFFECT THE WHOLE CLASSROOM if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

■ ATTENDANCE IS AN IMPORTANT SKILL THAT WILL HELP YOUR CHILD GRADUATE and do well in college and at work.

■ FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN, SET A REGULAR BEDTIME AND MORNING ROUTINE. Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.

■ FOR OLDER CHILDREN, YOU CAN SET UP HOMEWORK AND BEDTIME ROUTINES. Make sure that when the lights go out, so do the cell phones, video games and computers.

■ TRY NOT TO SCHEDULE MEDICAL AND DENTAL APPOINTMENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY. If absolutely necessary, schedule appointments for after 10 a.m.

■ DON’T LET YOUR CHILD STAY HOME UNLESS THEY ARE TRULY SICK. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.

■ STAY ON TOP OF YOUR CHILD’S SOCIAL CONTACTS. Peer pressure can lead to skipping, while students without many friends can feel isolated.

■ SET AN EXAMPLE FOR YOUR CHILD. Show him or her that attendance matters to you and that you won’t allow an absence unless someone is truly sick.

■ YOU CAN TURN TO YOUR SCHOOL FOR HELP. If your child or family is having challenges with transportation, housing or health issues, reach out to your school for support.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  HISD ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES 713.556.6800 www.houstonisd.org/attendance