

Attendance Matters!
Must be present to learn



We care about your child's success and want to work as partners to ensure that your child's education is a positive one.



District School Board of Pasco County

Kurt S. Browning
Superintendent of Schools

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Questions, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding discrimination or harassment may be sent to:

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Pasco County Schools

Elementary

Attendance Counts



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Pasco County Schools

Providing a world-class education for all students

Kurt S. Browning, Superintendent of Schools



Elementary Attendance Counts

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Did You Know?

Compulsory school attendance:

Section 1003.21 (1)(a), Florida Statutes

All children who have attained the age of 6 years or who will have attained the age of 6 years by February 1 of any school year or who are older than 6 years of age but who have not attained the age of 16 years, except as otherwise provided, are required to attend school regularly during the entire school term.

Potential consequences for parents whose children do not attend school regularly:

- Loss of cash assistance
- Referral to the State's Attorney's Office for truancy
- Loss of the natural joy that results from being part of your child's educational growth and development

Regular school attendance can avoid these negative impacts:

- Academic failure
- Social isolation/disconnection
- Low self esteem
- Confusion, anger, anxiety
- Disengagement with school
- Diminished motivation

What you can do:

- Take an active role – stay involved.
- Talk to your child – identify potential sources of student anxiety (related to school, friends, other).
- Keep updated on school events and announcements. Go to the school's website and sign up for a myStudent account.
- Help get your child to school on time and stay in school from bell to bell every day.
- Schedule family events and vacations with your child's school calendar in mind.
- Limit the amount of time that your child misses school due to medical appointments or illness. Try to arrange around the school day.
- Promote good health.

If you need assistance or referrals to resources, contact your school's Student Services support staff (School Counselor, School Social Worker, School Nurse or School Psychologist).

Why regular school attendance is important for your children and your family:

- Compulsory school attendance (it's the law)
- Results in improved academic achievement
- Engages children and families with the school and community
- Emphasizes the value of education
- Develops positive and consistent habits at an early age
- Establishes a social network outside the home

Patterns of nonattendance and truancy are considered **early warning signs** of academic failure, behavior problems, and social isolation. Students who do not attend school regularly, bell to bell, are more at risk for disengagement and not meeting graduation requirements than students who are consistently present at school. In fact, research shows that fourth grade students scored 12 points lower on standardized reading assessments if they missed just 3 days the prior month. Moreover, students who tend to miss more than 10% or 18 days in a school year are more at-risk for drop out than students who averaged 0 to 4 absences per year.

For more information on how you can get your child engaged in school visit www.attendanceworks.org