

# Help Your Child Succeed in Elementary School: *Build the Habit of Good Attendance*

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Participation in early education programs, like preschool and Head Start, lead to better attendance in kindergarten.
- Starting in kindergarten, missing 10% of school (or just 2 days every month) can make it harder to learn to read and cause children to fall behind in school.
- Good attendance, whether class is held in person or remotely, can help children do well in school, and eventually in the workplace and in college.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### Communicate with the School

- **Contact your child's teacher(s)** and let them know how to reach you.
- **Get and post your child's class schedule** and log in information on the refrigerator or your child's desk.
- **Practice logging in** to virtual classes and make a plan for supporting learning for children. Contact the school if you need help logging in.
- **Ask about the school's attendance policy.**

### Make School Attendance a Priority

- **Establish routines** for bedtime, waking up and showing up for class.
- **Identify a quiet place** for your child to do school work. If you have multiple children, make a schedule. Or ask your school or community agencies if they have created places for distance learning, or if noise-canceling headsets are available for students.
- **Develop back-up plans** for getting your child to school or logging in to the computer if you can't be there to help. Find a family member, neighbor or older child who can help over the phone or who can help while wearing a mask and maintaining physical distance. Community-based organizations might also be able to help.
- **When school is in session**, avoid extended family trips and non-stick medical appointments.
- **Ask your child's teacher** about attendance and tell the teacher any concerns you have.

### Help Your Child Stay Healthy and Engaged

- **Monitor your child's attendance** and participation; and contact the teacher to address any concerns.
- **Make sure your child gets the flu vaccine** and other required shots.
- **Find out if your child feels safe** from bullies. Make sure that school discipline policies don't lead to your child becoming disengaged or pushed out of school. If these are problems, work with your school to find a solution.
- **If your child seems bored or anxious** about school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make them feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- **Ask for help when you need it.** School staff, after-school program providers, and other parents or community agencies are available to help families access online learning, obtain food or housing and address other experiences that make it difficult to attend and participate.