

EVERYDAY COUNTS

How Montana Families Can Help Elementary Students Attend School Every Day

A message from the Montana Office of Public Instruction

Regular attendance in the early grades sets the foundation for reading, math, and social skills. Small, everyday choices at home make a big difference. Here's how you can help:



Build a consistent routine

Set a steady bedtime and morning schedule so getting to school on time feels automatic, not stressful.



Talk about why school matters

Help your child see the connection between showing up everyday and doing well — celebrate good attendance like any other achievement.



Plan ahead for appointments

Schedule doctor, dentist, and other appointments outside school hours whenever possible.



Avoid unnecessary absences

Save vacations and trips for school breaks, and keep kids home only when they're truly sick.



Know the tipping point

Missing just two days a month — about 18 days a year — can add up to chronic absence and hurt learning.



Have a backup plan

Line up a neighbor, relative, or friend who can help get your child to school if you're unexpectedly unable to.



Stay connected with the school

Reach out to teachers or the front office early if attendance becomes a challenge — they want to help.



Model the value of being there

Kids notice when attendance is a priority at home. Your consistency sets the tone.

Questions about attendance?

Reach out to your child's teacher or school office — we're partners in your child's success.

