

Why Attendance Matters at **HEMS**

Showing up matters for **R.E.A.L.** because it is an opportunity to:

- Build **R**outines
- Increase **E**ngagement
- Provide **A**ccess to resources
- Support **L**earning

Routines: A daily attendance routine can help you reduce stress and develop habits that help you keep a job.

Engagement: Being in school gives you a chance to see your friends and build relationships with school staff.

Access to Resources: When you show up to school, you can get access to meals, health services, mental health supports, and enrichment activities (sports, clubs, music, afterschool and summer programs, etc.).

Learning: You are more likely to pass classes and graduate from high school when you miss less than a week of school each semester.

7 Attendance Facts

1. Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.
2. Chronic absence appears to have doubled by the end of the 2021-22 school year. We estimate that it now affects nearly one out of three students.
3. Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade or be held back.
4. By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
5. Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school, or about 18 days in most school districts, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence.
6. Students who live in communities with high levels of poverty are four times more likely to be chronically absent than others often for reasons beyond their control, such as unstable housing, unreliable transportation and a lack of access to health care.
7. When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.