

## September is Attendance Awareness Month

### What are the benefits of being on time and in school every day?

- School is easier for students who are there every day – and on time.
- Being at school regularly and on time helps students build and maintain satisfactory friendships.
- Being ready and present for school establishes a life time of good habits – getting and keeping a job by being on time and being there every day.
- Arriving on time every day allows your child to be ready when everyone else is ready. Otherwise, they may feel embarrassed or uncomfortable about not fitting into the classroom routine.
- Being at school every day and on time meets the state’s attendance requirements and avoids violating the state attendance law, resulting in consequences that impact the whole family negatively.

### What happens when a student is not attending regularly?

- When a child does not attend school regularly, the law is being broken because the Indiana Code states that every child in Indiana must attend school a certain number of minutes each day.
- **A letter is sent from the school** when a student has **5 unexcused absences** during a school year, and again when they reach **8 unexcused absences**.
- **A pre-court attendance conference** is held after a student misses **10 days without medical or legal documentation** – even though a parent calls in “illness”. At the conference, parents and school officials work together to establish a plan to help the student and family improve attendance.
- **If a student continues to miss after the attendance conference without documentation from the school nurse or doctor, the excessive absence truancy case is referred to either Child Protective Services or Juvenile Court – or both.**
- **Parents of students with poor attendance may be prosecuted for educational neglect with consequences that have a negative impact on the family, including fines, an assignment of community service, jail time, and/or adjusted (possibly reduced) payments from the Social Security Administration.**

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*We want your child’s school experience to be a successful one! Working together, we can make great things happen!*