School Attendance Resources for Parents

ATTEND school today

ACHIEVE tomorrow
Chronic Absenteeism Overview

School attendance is essential to academic success, but too often students, parents and schools do not realize how quickly absences — excused or unexcused — can add up to academic trouble. Chronic absence is defined as missing 10 percent of the school year, or just 2-3 days every month. This can translate into third-graders unable to master reading, sixth-graders failing courses and ninth-graders dropping out of high school.

Did You Know?

- Missing just 2-3 days every month can translate into third graders unable to read on grade level.

- Being chronically late to school often leads to poor attendance.

- Absences can affect other students if a teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

- Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school — and themselves.

- Good attendance in the early grades will help children do well in high school, college and at work.

- By junior high and high school, chronic absence is the leading warning sign that a student will drop out of school.

- High school graduates make, on average, a million dollars more than a dropout over a lifetime.

California Law

California State Law requires that a student attend school: EVERY DAY - ALL DAY. 48200 from the Education Code of the State of California states the following: Each person between the ages of 6 and 18 years is subject to compulsory full-time education….and shall attend the public full-time school or continuation school for the full school day.
What Can I Do?

Getting your child to school on time, every day, unless he or she is sick, is something that you can do to ensure your child has a chance to succeed in school. While others can help, you are the bottom line. You can promote good attendance when you:

Establish and stick to the basic routines (i.e., setting a bedtime and sticking to it, laying out clothes and packing a backpack the night before, waking up on time, etc.) that will help your child develop the habit of on-time attendance.

Talk to your child about why going to school every day is critical and important unless he or she is sick. If your child seems reluctant to go to school, find out why and work with the teacher, administrator or after school provider to get them excited about going to school.

Come up with back up plans for who to turn to (another family member, a neighbor or fellow parents) to help you get your child to school if something comes up (e.g. another child gets sick, your car breaks down, etc.).

If your child is absent, work with the teacher to make sure she or he has an opportunity to learn and make up for the academics missed.

Reach out for help if you are experiencing tough times (i.e., transportation, unstable housing, loss of a job, health problems) that make it difficult to get your child to school. Other parents, your child’s teacher, principal, social worker, school nurse, after school providers or community agencies can help you problem solve or connect you to a needed resource.
Community Resources

Many times, there are extenuating circumstances that make it difficult for parents to ensure their children are in school all day, every day. The following pages contain some helpful community resources that may be of help if you find your family needing extra support.

Kern County Help Line

Community Action Partnership of Kern — Dial 2-1-1 from a local land line to be connected to comprehensive information and referral services that link Kern County residents to community health and human services and support.

Mentoring Programs

Ebony Counseling Center — Outreach programs, substance abuse counseling, job development, mentoring / 661-324-4756

Garden Pathways — Comprehensive mentoring services, life skills, vocational training / 661-633-9133

Stay Focused/Reach 4 Greatness — Mentoring Services, after school program, school assemblies and community outreach / 661-322-4673


Project 180 — Kern County Superintendent of Schools - Gang prevention, case management/mentoring / 661-852-5660

Counseling Programs

Action Family Counseling — Substance abuse treatment / 661-297-8691 (24 hotline 800-367-8336), intake@actionfamily.org

Alliance Against Family Violence — Counseling, education, child abuse prevention, domestic violence prevention / 661-322-0931(24 hotline 327-1091), LGBTQ hotline 661-332-1506

Henrietta Weill Child Guidance Center — Early intervention programs, individual, family & group therapy, parenting classes / 661-322-1021 / www.hwmccg.org

Clinica Sierra Vista Behavioral Health — Individual, family, and group counseling, case management, psychiatric evaluations and medication support / 661-397-8775

Al-Anon Groups for teens — Counseling programs for victims of substance abuse / 661-322-1102 / www.kernalanon.org

kernstayinschool.org
Kern County Mental Health — Crisis Mental Health Assessment and 24 hour care / 661-868-8000

Ebony Counseling Center — Outreach programs, substance abuse counseling, individual and group services / 661-324-4756

East Bakersfield Community Health — Counseling services, case management, WIC / 661-322-7881

Family Preservation Community — Wrap-around services, behavior intervention, tutoring, transportation, etc. / 661-324-3400 / 760-376-4100

CSUB Counselor Training Clinic — Low cost counseling services / 661-654-3402

Parenting Education

Parent Project Classes — Parenting skills classes / 661-852-5661/ kernparentproject.org

Parents on a Mission — Parenting skills classes / 661-369-8922

Henrietta Weill Memorial Child Guidance Clinic — Early intervention programs, individual, family & group therapy, parenting classes / 661-322-1021 / www.hwmcgc.org

Pregnant Teen Services

Clinica Sierra Vista — Information and education program, family life education program, teen life choices (TLC) / 324-0293

Adolescent Family Life Program — Case management and parenting skills for expecting teens / 661-324-0293

Bakersfield Pregnancy Center — 326-1907 / www.wehelpyou.org

Continued...
Basic Needs Assistance

**Bakersfield Homeless Center** — Shelter for women, children, and families, food, referrals / 1600 E. Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield 93305 / 661-322-9199

**Home Emergency Assistance Program (HEAP)** — Help with electric and gas bills / 661-336-5203

**Salvation Army Project R.E.A.C.H.** — PG&E emergency energy assistance / 661-837-4243

**New Arising Destiny Center** — Residential program / 661-837-4908

**Women, Infants and Children (WIC)** — Nutrition and breastfeeding education, helps families by providing checks for healthy foods and offers referrals for other community services / (661) 862-5422

**FLOOD Bakersfield Ministries** — Housing assistance / 661-323-5663

**Hope Center** — Clothing and food, no referral needed / 661-399-2119

After school Programs

**Friendship House** — Homework assistance, tutoring, recreational activities / 661-369-8926

**Youth Connection Program** — Economic support for children interested in activities / 661-325-3730

**Sheriff’s Activity League (SAL)** — Sports geared mentoring programs, football, baseball, skateboarding, boxing / 661-978-6388

**Police Activities League (PAL)** — Athletic program, tutoring, art, college initiative, recreation, social programs / 661-283-8880

**Boys & Girls Club** — Organized sports, homework assistance, health and nutrition, arts and crafts / 661-325-3730

**NOR Recreation and Park District** — Organized sports, cheer, dance, martial arts, music lessons, cooking classes / 661-392-2000

**Teen Challenge** — After-school tutoring, group mentoring, and hope to students from the Oildale area / 661-703-2476

**Girl Scouts of America** — Mentoring, training, activities / 661-327-1409

**Boy Scouts of America** — Mentoring, outdoor activities, leadership / 661-325-9036

kernstayinschool.org
BPD Explorer Program — For youth interested in a career in law enforcement / 661-326-3024

Hall Ambulance Explorer Program — For youth interested in a career in pre-hospital care / 661-322-8741

Golden Empire Football & Cheer — After school programs for youth / 661-837-4393

Greenfield Sports Assoc. — After school programs for youth / 661-496-9385

**Miscellaneous**

Community Action Partnership of Kern — HIV/AIDS education and prevention, financial literacy services, food bank, fatherhood education program, WIC, Headstart / 661-336-5236

Kern County Department of Human Services — 661-631-6000

Kern County Children’s Dental Health — Comprehensive dental services to children (2-5 years of age) at pre and elementary school sites throughout Kern County / 377-0322

Kern County Network for Children — 661-636-4488

**Hotlines**

Kern County Mental Health — 800-991-5272

California Youth Crisis Line — 800-843-5200

Child Abuse / Neglect Hotline — 661-631-6011

National Suicide Hotline — 800-SUICIDE / (800-784-2433)

National Suicide Prevention Line — 800-273-TALK (8255)

National Domestic Violence Hotline — 800-799-SAFE (800-799-7233)

CA Smokers’ & Chawers’ Helplines — 800-NO-BUTTS (66-28887)

GLBT National Youth Talk Line — 800-246-7743

National Gay & Lesbian Hotline — 888-843-4564 (youth/adult)

Self Injury Hotline—Alternatives to Cutting — 800-366-8288

RAINN Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network — Rape, abuse, incest national network / 800-656-HOPE (4673)
Kern High School District  
Attendance Accounting  
5801 Sundale Avenue  
Bakersfield, California 93306  
661-827-3177

Kern County Superintendent of Schools  
Office of Christine Lizardi Frazier  
1300 17th Street - CITY CENTRE  
Bakersfield, CA 93301-4533  
661-636-4000

The issuer of this booklet does not endorse any of the organizations within. This resource is intended to be a partial listing of community resources. You are encouraged to research and educate yourself on the many other services in our community.