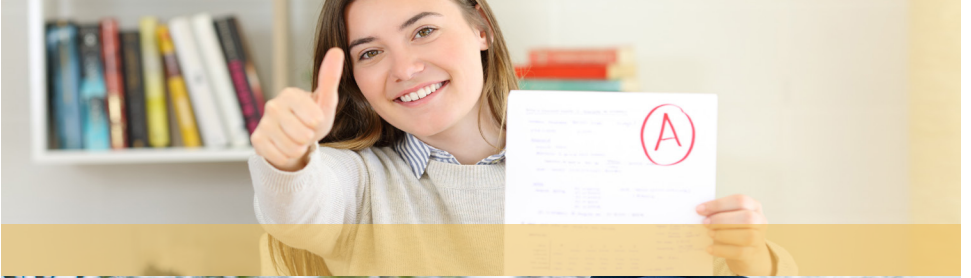


**ATTEND** TODAY • **ACHIEVE** TOMORROW



# SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Resources for Parents

# 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

**Building Healthy Communities (BHC) AmeriCorps** — Middle school/high school mentoring services / 661-852-5674

**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

**Youth for Christ/Campus Life** — Engages youth in life skills, teen parenting, mentoring and service-learning / 661-323-9041, [www.yfckern.org](http://www.yfckern.org)

## Counseling Programs

**Action Family Counseling** — Substance abuse treatment / 661-297-8693 (24 Hr. Hotline 800-367-8336), [intake@actionfamily.org](mailto:intake@actionfamily.org)

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

**Aspiranet** — Wrap around services 661-323-1233 or 661-859-2195  
Services for parents who are at risk of or who have already had their children removed by the Child Welfare System.

**Al-Anon Groups for teens** — Counseling programs for victims of substance abuse / 661-330-1964 / [www.kernalanon.org](http://www.kernalanon.org)

**Behavioral Health & Recovery Services** — Crisis Hotline 800-991-5272 / Suicide Hotline 800-273-8255 / Substance Use Division Access line 1-866-266-4898 / Non-Crisis Adult Care 661-868-8080

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

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

**East Bakersfield Community Health** — Counseling services, case management, WIC / 661-862-5422

**Henrietta Weill Child Guidance Center** — Early intervention programs, individual, family & group therapy, parenting classes/ 661-322-1021 / [www.hwmcgc.org](http://www.hwmcgc.org)

## Parenting Education

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**Friendship House** — Provides educational and recreational services, after school and summer programs, medical services, food distribution, job training and an outreach center / 661-369-8922

**Parent Project Classes** — Parenting skills classes / 661-852-5660/ [kernparentproject.org](http://kernparentproject.org)

**Henrietta Weill Memorial Child Guidance Clinic** — Early intervention programs, individual, family & group therapy, parenting classes / 661-322-1021/ [www.hwmcgc.org](http://www.hwmcgc.org)

## Pregnant Teen Services

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

**Bakersfield Pregnancy Center** — 661-326-1915 / [www.wehelpyou.org](http://www.wehelpyou.org)

**Clinica Sierra Vista** — Information and education program, family life education program, Teen Life Choices (TLC) / 661-324-0293

**Planned Parenthood** — 661-634-1000 / [www.plannedparenthood.org](http://www.plannedparenthood.org)

## Basic Needs Assistance

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

**Catholic Charities** — Assistance with rent, utilities, food, formula, and hygiene/diapers donations / 661-281-2130

**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 / 661-836-8487

**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

**Community Action Partnership of Kern** --- Provides emergency food assistance (661) 398-4520

## After school Programs

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**Army Cadets** — Open to young men and women ages 10 to 18 years old; adults are also welcome to get involved in the program / 661-426-3226

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

**Youth Connection Program** — Economic support for children interested in activities / 661-868-4131

**Sheriff's Activity League (SAL)** — Sports geared mentoring programs, football, baseball, skateboarding, boxing / 661-868-1504 / [kcsal.com](http://kcsal.com)

**Police Activities League (PAL)** — Athletic program, tutoring, art, college initiative, recreation, social programs / 661-283-8880 / [bakersfieldpal.org](http://bakersfieldpal.org)

**Boys & Girls Club** — Organized sports, homework assistance, health and nutrition, arts and crafts / 661-325-3730 / [bgclubofkerncounty.org](http://bgclubofkerncounty.org)

**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

**BPD Explorer Program** — For youth interested in a career in law enforcement / 661-326-3922

**Hall Ambulance Explorer Program** — For youth interested in a career in pre-hospital care / 661-322-8741 / [www.hallamb.com/community](http://www.hallamb.com/community)

## Miscellaneous

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**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 / 661-377-0322

**Kern County Network for Children** — 661-636-4488

## Hotlines

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**Behavioral Health & Recovery Services** — 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)

**CASmokers' & Chewers' 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)

## **Delano Community Resources**

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**Child Guidance** — 375 Dover Parkway, Suite A, Delano (661) 725-1042

**DUSD Vision Center** located at **Pioneer Elementary** and referrals are done through **DUESD** school nurses.

**Community Connection Center** - 1842 Norwalk, Delano (661) 721-7036 (Contact District's Nurse, Linda Hinojosa for more information).

## **Ridgecrest Community Resources**

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**College Community Services** — 760-499-7406

**Crisis Stabilization Unit** — 760-463-2880

**Dept. of Human Services** — 760-499-5200

**IWV Family Resource Center** — 760-375-4357

**Mobile Health Clinic (SSUSD)** — 760-499-3551

**Immunizations & Physicals & Urgent Care Ridgecrest Regional Hospital** — 760-499-3855

**Rural Health Clinic** — 760-499-3855

**Southern Sierra Clinic** — 760-446-6404

**WIC** — 866-327-3074

**Women's Center High Desert** — 760-371-1969

## **Shafter Community Resources**

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**Shafter Healthy Start** — Court mandated nurturing classes, free health screens, Medi-Cal enrollment assistance, and nutrition classes. 661-746-8690

## **Wasco Community Resources**

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**College Community Services** — Therapeutic behavioral services, crisis intervention, and psychological evaluations. 661-758-4029

**Wasco Recreation and Parks** — After school sports and activities. 661-758-3081

**Sheriffs' Activities League** — Sports geared mentoring programs, football, baseball, skateboarding, and boxing. 661-758-7266

**Shafter Healthy Start** — Court mandated nurturing classes, free health screens, Medi-Cal enrollment assistance, and nutrition classes. 661-746-8690