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

Counseling Programs

Action Family Counseling — Substance abuse treatment / 661-297-8693 (24 Hr. Hotline 800-367-8336), 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.

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

Parenting Education

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

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

Pregnant Teen Services

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

Bakersfield Pregnancy Center — 661-326-1915 / 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

Basic Needs Assistance

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**

**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

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

**Boys & Girls Club** — Organized sports, homework assistance, health and nutrition, arts and crafts / 661-325-3730 / 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
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 / 661-377-0322

Kern County Network for Children — 661-636-4488

Hotlines

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

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

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

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

Wasco Community Resources

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