



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

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Alabama  
State Board  
of Education

**NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS IN ALABAMA – DAILY CLASSROOM AND  
OVERALL SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AWARENESS STILL TOP PRIORITIES**

*“Positive Outcomes, Problem-Solving, and Renewed Focus on Excellent School Attendance”*

Governor Kay Ivey  
President

National research indicates students who are chronically absent, in any year between eighth and 12th grade, are more than 7 times more likely to drop out, compared to those with better daily attendance.

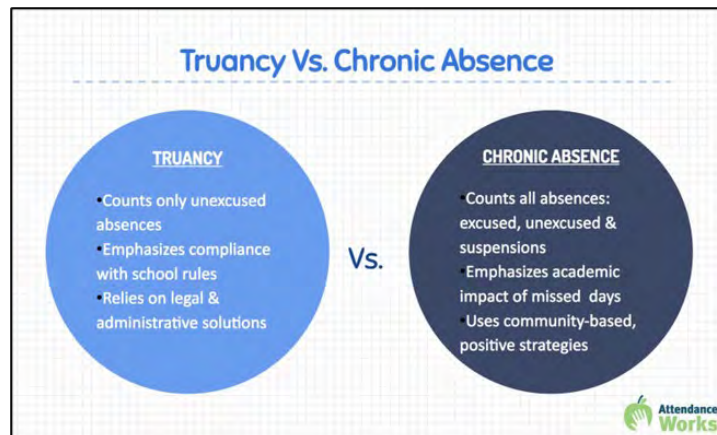
Jackie Zeigler  
District I

Alabama educators are reenergized as school systems across our state have begun a new and exciting school year. “We are focused on having a great school year and are determined to have great daily school attendance by students and teachers,” said

Tracie West  
District II  
Vice President

Education Administrator for the ALSDE Instructional Services Section Dr. Kay Atchison Warfield.

Stephanie Bell  
District III



Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.  
District IV

Schools are increasing their outreach efforts to ensure all students make it to class every day. There is a renewed focus on building and supporting regular school attendance nationwide.

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.  
District V  
President Pro Tem

Marie Manning  
District VI

The recent global pandemic inspired parents and local schools to strengthen their methods of providing quality educational experiences to local K-12 students. One important resource, which continues to make a positive impact on school attendance in our state is our annual celebration of *Alabama Attendance Awareness Month*.

Belinda McRae  
District VII

September has officially been designated as School Attendance Awareness Month 2023. During this special event in our state and nation, real emphasis is being placed on building greater student engagement, public awareness, and family support for school attendance efforts.

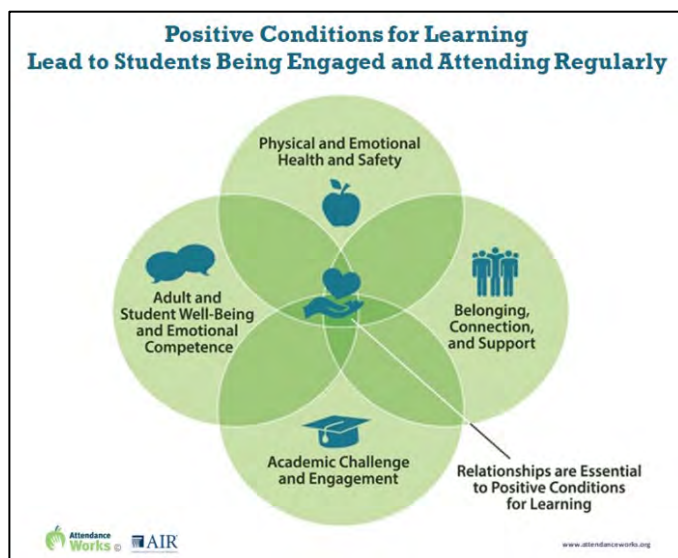
Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.  
District VIII

Local schools are dedicating efforts to become more familiar with the *Alabama Attendance Manual* and guidelines. Use of this resource will provide guidance and information to educators, parents, and communities about school attendance laws and guidelines.

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.  
Secretary and  
Executive Officer

—more—

## September Designated School Attendance Awareness Month 2023



Barriers in transportation, health issues, poor nutrition, and mental health concerns are some leading factors that often impact student attendance. A recent national survey revealed that chronic absenteeism has more than double from pre-pandemic levels, with an estimated 8 million students missing too many school days.

Every day that a child is not in school is a day a child misses an opportunity to learn and grow.

“Chronic absences in elementary school can lead to lower academic performance, and by middle school, it can be a warning sign if a student is on track to fail classes or eventually drop out of high school all together,” further said Education Administrator Dr. Kay Atchison Warfield. “Addressing student attendance is not a solo effort, it takes everyone together to ensure every student is prepared for a successful future.”

A recently implemented survey revealed that national chronic absenteeism has more than double from pre-pandemic levels.



Celebrating more than 10 years of service, the Attendance Awareness Campaign shares the important message, that every day a student is in school is a great opportunity for them to learn, build relationships and access support. This national campaign urges schools, localities, and states to promote the value of good attendance and to take concrete steps toward reducing chronic absence.

*Chronic absenteeism -18 days or more a year (excused and unexcused) places students at greater academic risk. Schools have the potential to support*

*students' positive mental health development by helping students engage in school activities, develop caring connections with teachers and other young people, and use appropriate problem-solving skills.*

\* Listen to this national discussion on chronic absence, on *All Things Considered*:  
[https://www.npr.org/2023/03/02/1160358099/school-attendance-chronic-absenteeism-covid?utm\\_campaign=storyshare&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_medium=social](https://www.npr.org/2023/03/02/1160358099/school-attendance-chronic-absenteeism-covid?utm_campaign=storyshare&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_medium=social)

Attendance Works is also providing this valuable information for local school administrators to use in combatting truancy and chronic school absences:  
<https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/addressing-chronic-absence/3-tiers-of-intervention/>

***September Designated School Attendance Awareness Month 2023***

This resource provides key information for schools, families, and community organizations to support student attendance.

**To learn more about Alabama school attendance and awareness efforts**, contact Alabama State Department of Education Administrator Dr. Kay Atchison Warfield or Instructional Services Specialists Shenitra Dees and Tracy Goreed at 334-694-4768.

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