

From the Desk of the School Social Worker...

Regular School Attendance and Success

Attendance Awareness Week 9/19/11 to 9/23/11

School attendance is a necessary part of your child's education and attending school in a regular and timely fashion enhances the educational process. When a child is absent from school due to illness, the parent must call the school on the date of the illness to report the absence. If a child misses more than 15 days of school per year, parents must provide a doctor's note to excuse further absences due to illness. Excused absences are acceptable, but unexcused absences can become a problem.

According to Florida Statute 1003.26, students who are exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance will be referred to the Problem Solving Team (PST) for assistance with the remediation of the problem. If a child accumulates a minimum of **15 unexcused absences** within 90 days, it violates Florida's Compulsory School Attendance Law. The violation could have legal consequences for the parent and/or the student. Excessive **unexcused tardies or checkouts** count towards the unexcused absence count (5 unexcused tardies or checkouts equates to 1 unexcused daily absence).

Regular school attendance is extremely important in the successful education of all children. Increasing your child's school attendance may reflect positively on the grades earned in the classroom, enhance your child's self-esteem, and help your child produce a positive outlook on obtaining an education at school. Remember, your child's teacher, the attendance clerk, guidance counselor, and administrators are valuable resources to for you to utilize. Periodic communication with school staff is beneficial to the overall school experience for you and your child.

Your school social worker, Jamie Majors, is a resource for students and families. Contact your school social worker for assistance with increasing school attendance. Your school social worker can also assist you with accessing community/social service resources, counseling services, and medical insurance. Your school social worker may be contacted at 322-6201 ext.34220 or by email at jnmajors@volusia.k12.fl.us