



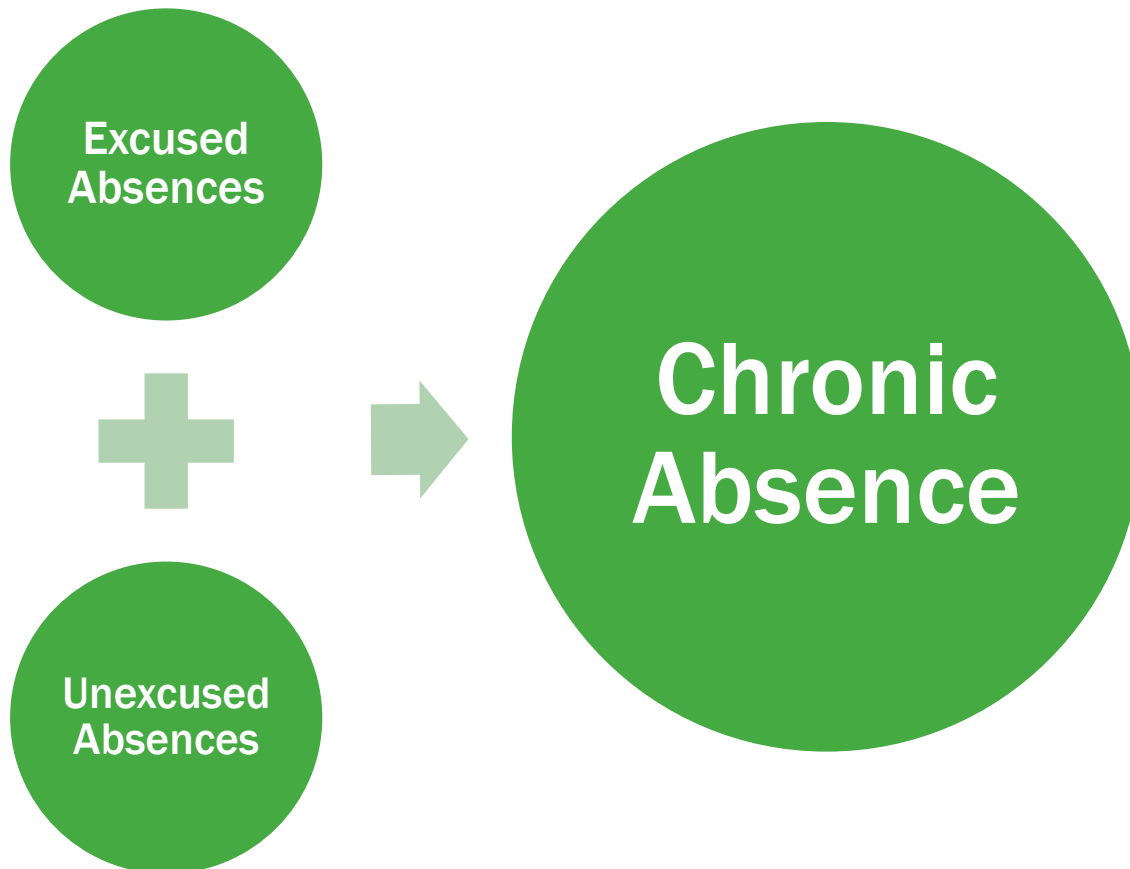
Taking Action on Attendance:

*How Parents Can Make a
Difference at Home*

Alvord Unified School District

What is Chronic Absence?

Chronic Absence is missing 10% or more of the school year for **any reason** – this includes excused and unexcused absences.



Literacy Crisis

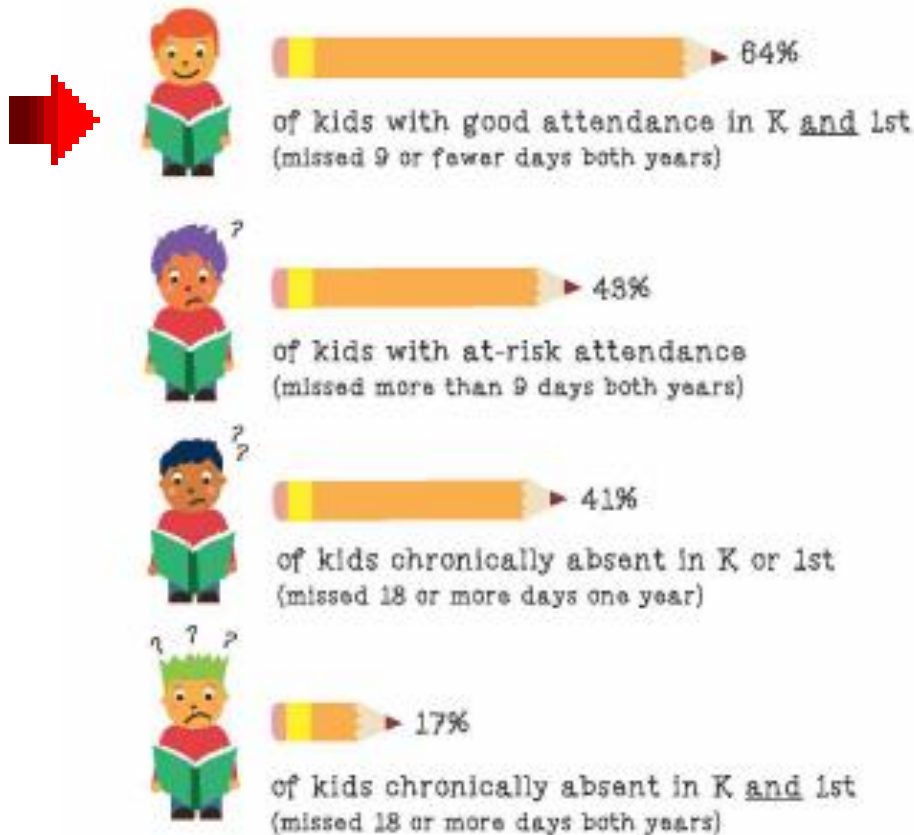
- Our nation is facing a crisis in early literacy: two-thirds of U.S. fourth graders are not reading proficiently, national assessments show.
- A growing body of research documents how many youngsters are chronically absent, meaning they miss 10% or more of the school year due to excused or unexcused absences. The research also shows how these missed days as early as preschool translate into weaker reading skills.



Why It Matters...



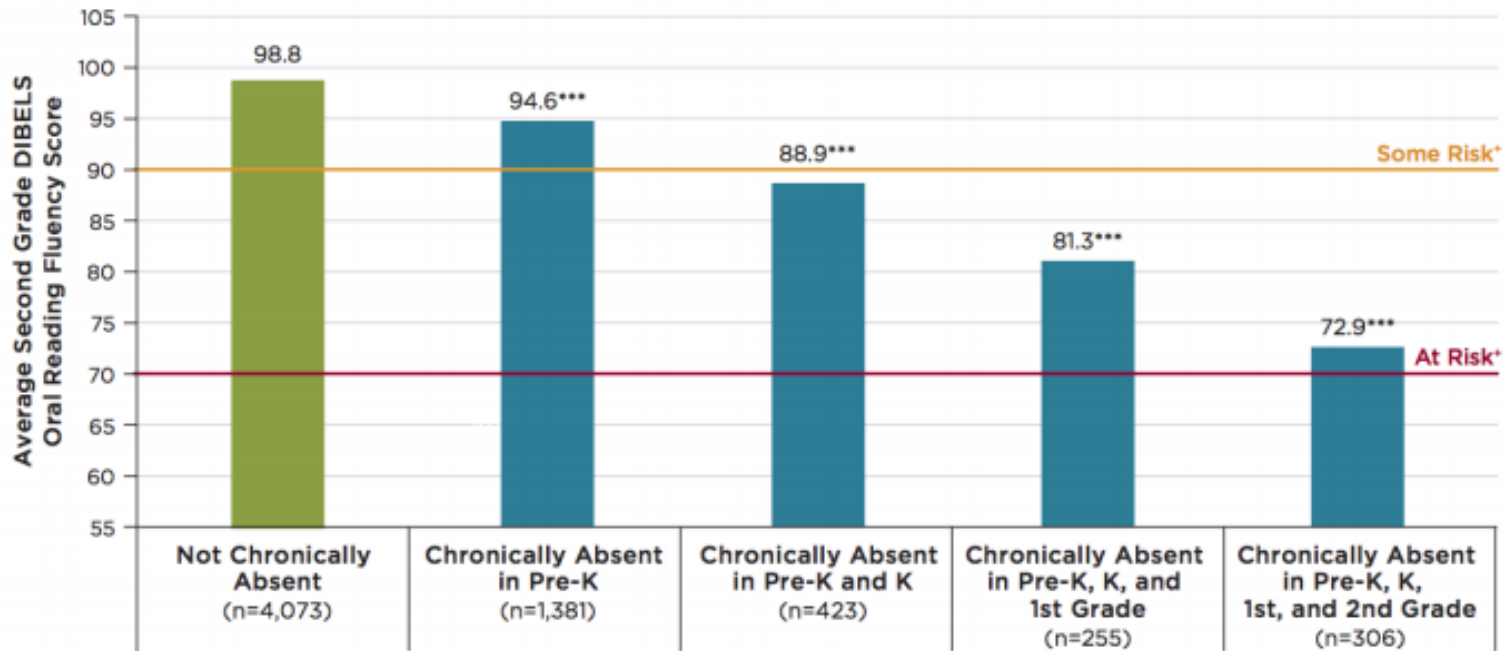
Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?³



More Reading Interventions Needed



The more years students are chronically absent in the early years, the more at-risk they are for needing reading interventions by the end of second grade.



Ehrlich, Stacy B. et al. *Preschool Attendance in Chicago Public Schools: Relationships with Learning Outcomes and Reasons for Absences: Research Summary*. September 2013.



Why Are Students Missing So Much School?

Myths

Absences are only a problem if they are unexcused

Sporadic versus consecutive absences aren't a problem

Attendance only matters in the older grades

Facts

Excused or unexcused, an absence hinders learning.

10 percent or more absences predicts poor academic performance as early as TK

Early chronic absence can leave children unable to read by the end of 3rd grade.

Support Your Child's Education

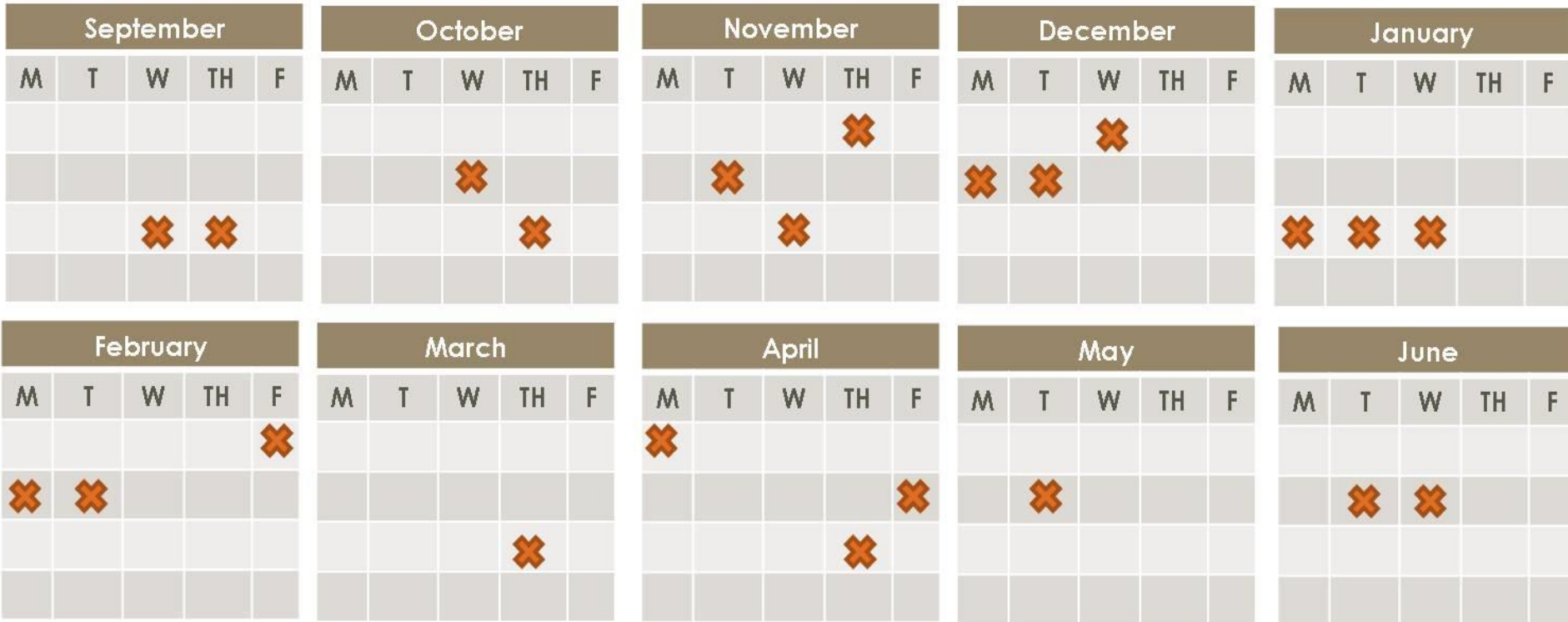
Consecutive and sporadic absences (1-2 a month) can present a problem

Encourage your child to understand the connection between attendance and graduating high school.

Research shows parent involvement has great impact on student attendance.



Why We May Not Notice Chronic Absence



Absences Add Up

Chronic Absence = 18 days of absence = 2 days a month



If You're Not in School, You Can't Benefit From What Is Taught

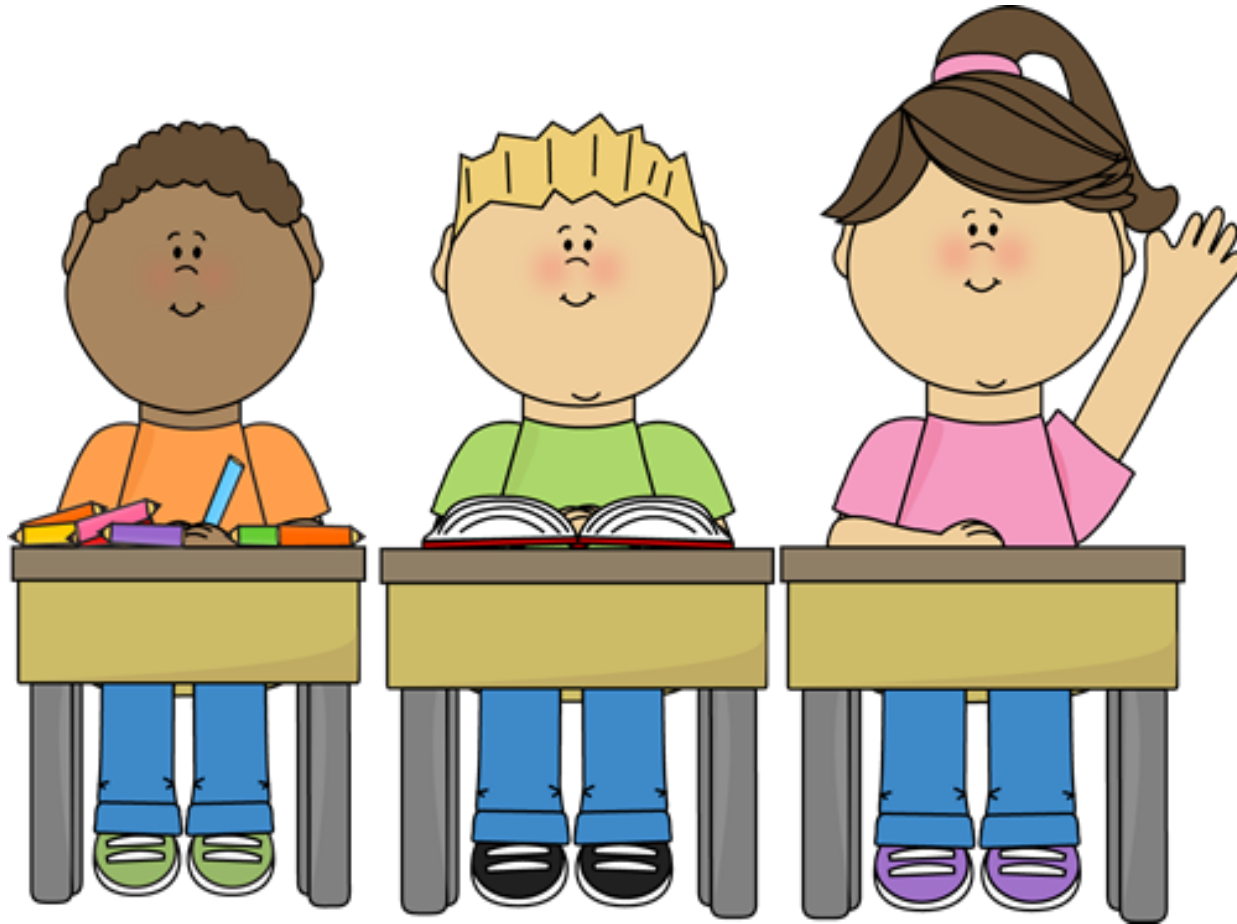


What Can You Do?



- **Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.**
- **Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.**
- **Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.**
- **Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.**
- **Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.**
- **If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.**
- **Develop some backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor or another parent.**
- **Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.**

“Every student will realize their unlimited potential.”



AUSD thanks you for your support in your student's learning!