



The Impact of School Tardiness

Good school attendance also means arriving on time. Just like absenteeism, frequent tardiness is linked to poor outcomes for students. While it may only seem like ten or fifteen minutes, it directly impacts your child's success and disrupts the learning environment for all students in the class.

Problems with Tardiness

The most crucial learning hours of a school day are in the morning when students are most attentive. Therefore, we schedule reading and math blocks at the beginning of the day so that your child has the best opportunity to learn successfully. Arriving late impacts critical learning in these core subject areas and also causes a distraction for other students trying to focus.

Plus, this time adds up. Students who are 15 minutes late four days per week end up missing an entire week of instruction by the end of the school year and an entire 13 weeks of school by the end of their academic career.

Academics and Achievement

Studies show that students who are frequently tardy have lower grades, lower scores on standardized tests, and lower graduation rates. Chronic tardiness in elementary and middle school is a strong predictor of whether a student will drop out of high school before graduation.

Behavior Problems

Students who are frequently tardy also have higher rates of suspension and other disciplinary measures. Tardiness causes students to feel disconnected from school, leading to behavior problems and issues with peers.

Job Performance

Students who are frequently tardy to school are also more likely to be fired from a future job for showing up late.

Effect on Others

When students are late, they negatively impact their teachers and other students. Teachers are often required to disrupt their teaching and learning environment to allow tardy students to catch up on their work. This often requires teachers to restructure their lessons or re-teach missed material. Tardiness also takes other students' attention away from a teacher's lesson, leading to more behavior concerns and missed instruction.

Helpful Tips

Here are some suggestions to ensure your child arrives to school on time before the tardy bell rings at 8:10 a.m.

- Build regular routines for bedtime and mornings.
- Layout clothes, pack backpacks/lunch boxes, and fill water bottles the night before.
- Set up a "last stop" area. Pick an available area near the door you typically exit. The night before put everything there for the next day: backpacks, homework, keys, and especially coats and shoes.
- Do you always get caught by the train or stuck in traffic. If all else fails, wake up earlier and/or leave the house earlier. Allowing yourself 5 to 10 extra minutes in the morning may make for a calmer start to your day.

As a school community, we are here to help! Please reach out to your child's teacher, counselor, or school principal if you or your child needs additional support.

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