

Parents: Build the Habit of Good Attendance in Elementary School

School success goes hand in hand with good attendance. Attending school regularly has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job. **RCPS expects students to be in school every day and on time.** However, we understand that there are valid reasons for absences and that they may be unavoidable. Barring serious illness, students should have no more than 5 absences within one school year.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Good attendance habits are formed in elementary school.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

**Elementary School
Hours:
7:35 a.m. – 2:10 p.m.**

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- **Set a regular bed time and morning routine.**
- **Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.**
- **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 back-up 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.**



You can monitor your child's attendance through the RCPS Parent Portal. Visit the RCPS main page at www.rockdale.k12.ga.us and select Parents. Under Quick Links, select Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Please contact your child's school counselor, school social worker, or school administrator for more information.