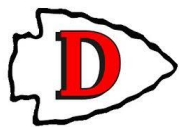




# **#AttendanceMatters!**

September is Attendance Awareness Month



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1

## Chronic Absenteeism

Chronic absenteeism is defined as **missing 10% or more** of the school year for any reason.

Chronic absenteeism “**counts**” all absences including medical, religious, court appointments, suspension, etc. The **focus is on missed teaching/learning**.

In 2017-18, **150 Derby students** in Grades K-12 were considered chronically absent.

DPS chronic absenteeism has decreased over the past 3 years from **16.7% in 2014-2015, to 11.45% in 2017-2018. (Down 5.25%)**

State’s **target** for school/district chronic absenteeism is **5%**. **Derby’s** individual school’s chronic absenteeism rates ranged from **2.85% - 27.27%**.

2

## Why Students Miss School

Absences often tied to **chronic health problems**, such as asthma, diabetes, and oral and mental health issues.

Other barriers include, lack of a nearby **school bus, a safe route to school, clean/appropriate clothing, before/after school care, disengagement, or food insecurity** make it difficult to go to school every day.

**Missing just 2 days of school per month adds up to chronic absenteeism.**

Early interventions with a caring school adult makes a tremendous difference.

3

## Impact

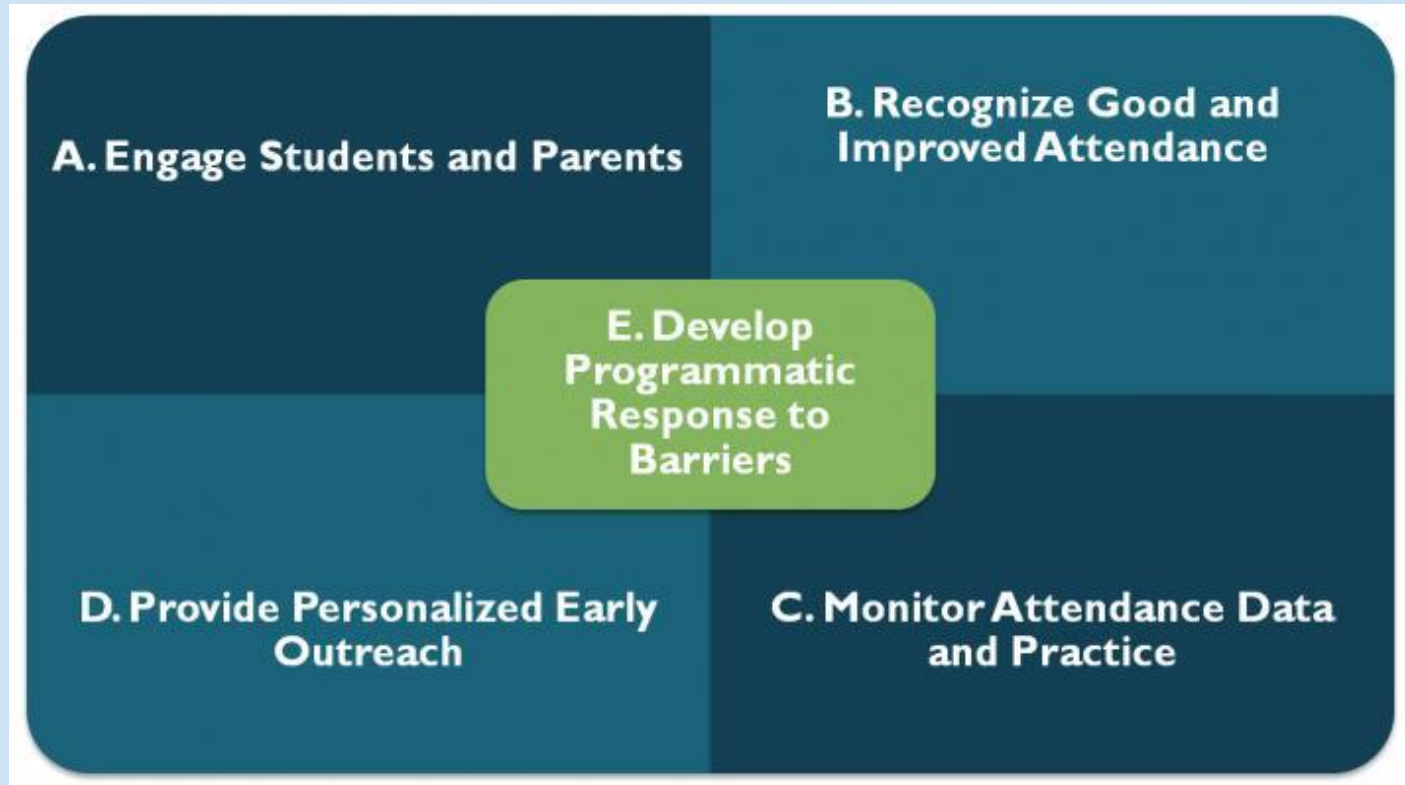
Research demonstrates that **regular school attendance** is key to early **literacy development, learning, achievement and motivation**.

Chronic absence in kindergarten is associated with lower levels of literacy in the first grade and **lower likelihood of grade-level reading** by the end of third grade. (key indicator for school success)

Research also shows that by middle and high school, chronic absence is a leading **warning sign that a student will drop out**.

The student, teacher, and entire class community is impacted when students miss school (academically, socially, emotionally)

**Goal: Derby's chronic absenteeism rate will decrease by 3% from 11.45% in 2017-18 to 8.45% in 2018-2019.**



This September marks the sixth annual Attendance Awareness Month campaign.

This is an opportunity to rally our community, local boards, advocates, policymakers, volunteers, funders and supporters around the importance of attendance and its role in academic achievement!



# Absences Add up!

**#SCHOOLEVERYDAY**

Missing just 2 days a month  
means a child misses 10% of the  
school year.

RUPERT GANZER