



Spartanburg District Two is joining other districts across our area in partnering with the Spartanburg Academic Movement in a campaign to improve preschool attendance across our county.

The ***Strive for Five*** campaign is encouraging parents and families to focus on attendance by having students at school ***on time all five days of the week***.

WHY ATTENDANCE?

Students suffer academically if they consistently miss school days. Children who miss too many days in kindergarten and 1st grade often have trouble reading by the end of 3rd grade. Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school – and themselves.

Students who are **chronically absent** in early grades are more likely to maintain this negative pattern throughout their school career.



Did you know that in the past, nearly 19% of preschool students across Spartanburg County were chronically absent, meaning they missed over 18 school days (that's almost a month of school at a minimum)? **Missing just 2 days a month can quickly add up and negatively impact a student's academic growth.**

Help us interrupt this pattern and cultivate a habit of good attendance starting in pre-kindergarten so children have the opportunity to learn and succeed in school.



Why is attendance so important? Studies of absenteeism show a link to lower achievement levels. Students who begin missing many days of school in preschool and early elementary grades **later show continued patterns of excessive absenteeism. When students aren't in school, no matter the reason, they miss valuable instruction time.** Although many absences can be "excused" due to health concerns or other reasons, students are still at risk of negative outcomes when

they do not consistently attend school.





What You Can Do – 4K is a great time to start building positive habits about school attendance!

- 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 teachers and classmates before school to ease the transition
- Don't let your child stay at home unless they are truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be signs 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 to for advice on how to make them feel comfortable and excited about learning
- Develop a back-up plan for getting to school if something comes up. Be able to call on a neighbor, family member or another parent for help.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.





What We Will Do

- Inform parents of the importance of attendance, especially during the earliest preschool years
- Encourage students and parents to track their attendance outcomes
- Incentivize and celebrate students and parents that are achieving positive attendance outcomes
 - Display student attendance in classrooms and hallways
 - Track attendance rates daily to uncover patterns and look for early warning signs
 - Share success stories



For more information about how attendance impacts your child's education, please check out these great resources:

www.attendanceworks.org

www.absencesaddup.org

www.learnwithSAM.org