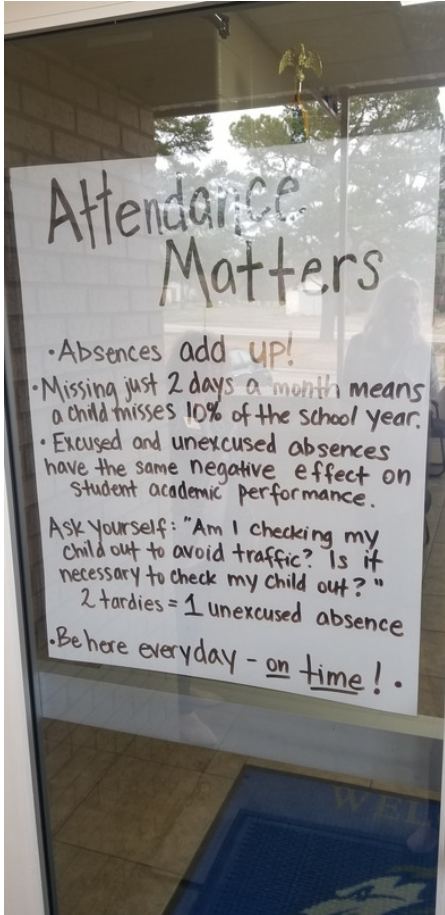


Stories that Matter

Jessieville School District has Everyone "Talking Attendance"



Attendance Matters

Knowing the impact that chronic absence has on a student's academic success, **Arkansas made attendance a top priority in its ESSA plan.** Arkansas' Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan

identifies Student Engagement as a School Quality and Success Indicator. Each Arkansas student can gain a full point on the Student Engagement indicator by missing less than five percent of school days in a year. According to Attendanceworks.org, poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade. By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school (2018).

A Little Competition Goes a Long Way

Jessieville Elementary is seeing an average daily attendance rate of 97% after incorporating a friendly competition among classrooms. Through the hallways of JES, students, teachers, and families can see the posted paws representing perfect attendance for a day in each classroom. The **winning class will get \$100** (from Title I funds) to spend on classroom instructional materials. "Students are planning how they are going to spend the money if they win," said assistant principal Amanda Sarver. "The conversations are changing and **'everyone can talk the attendance talk.'**" Students are asking their parents if they can stay at school when their parents come to check them out. Teachers are modeling the importance of attendance by showing up everyday with their students. The addition of home visits is providing much-needed support to families. (The absences are tracked through the daily Cognos report and the results are categorized by state requirements.)



Read Arkansas' ESSA plan:

<http://bit.ly/ESSAinAR>

Find additional resources for families, teachers, schools, and administrators on our attendance webpage: <http://bit.ly/ADEattendance>

Two Other Take-Aways for Your School:

Peer Observations	Senior Lunches
Teachers use a Google calendar to plan observations of other teachers across the district. Reflection forms are provided and allow for teachers to write a short narrative. This initiative leads to great conversation and more engaging classrooms. *Subs are provided if needed!	The superintendent invites seniors to lunch in small groups to discuss their future plans. This lunchtime tradition also allows JHS students to have a voice in improving the school culture.