



# **Taking Action on Attendance:**

*How Parents Can Make a  
Difference at Home*



# AASD Attendance Policy

# Your Role as a Parent

- Understand the school district policy
- Call the school when your child is going to be absent or have an appointment
- Call the school for support when your child is complaining about not wanting to go to school and does not have symptoms of being ill

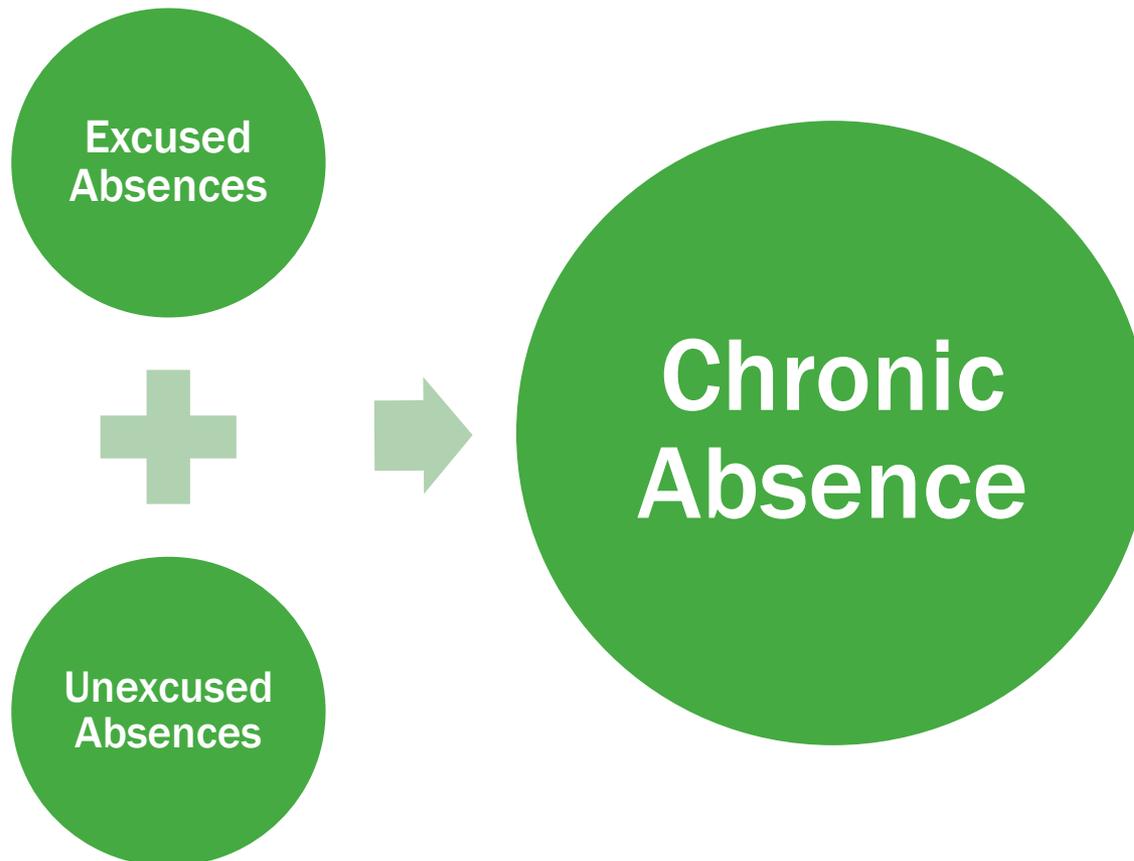
# What can you do?

- Establish and stick to the basic routines (going to bed early, waking up on time, etc.) that will help your child develop the habit of on-time attendance.
- Talk to your child about why going to school every day is critical and important unless they are sick. If your child seems reluctant to go to school, find out why and work with the teacher, administrator or afterschool provider to get them excited about going to school.

- **Come up with back up plans for who to turn to (another family member, a neighbor or fellow parents) to help you get your child to school if something comes up (e.g. another child gets sick, your car breaks down, etc.).**
- **Reach out for help if you are experiencing tough times (e.g. transportation, unstable housing, loss of a job, health problems) that make it difficult to get your child to school. Other parents, your child's teacher, principal, social worker, school nurse, afterschool providers or community agencies can help you problem solve or connect you to a needed resource.**
- **If your child is absent, work with the teacher to make sure she or he has an opportunity to learn and make up for the academics missed.**

# What is Chronic Absence?

Chronic Absence is missing 10% or more of the school year for **any reason** – this includes excused and unexcused absences.



# Chronic Absence: A Hidden National Crisis

- ❑ Nationwide, as many as 7.5 million students miss nearly a month of school every year. That's 135 million days of lost time in the classroom.
- ❑ In some cities, as many as one in four students are missing that much school.
- ❑ Chronic absenteeism is a red alert that students are headed for academic trouble and eventually for dropping out of high school.
- ❑ Poor attendance isn't just a problem in high school. It can start as early as pre-kindergarten.



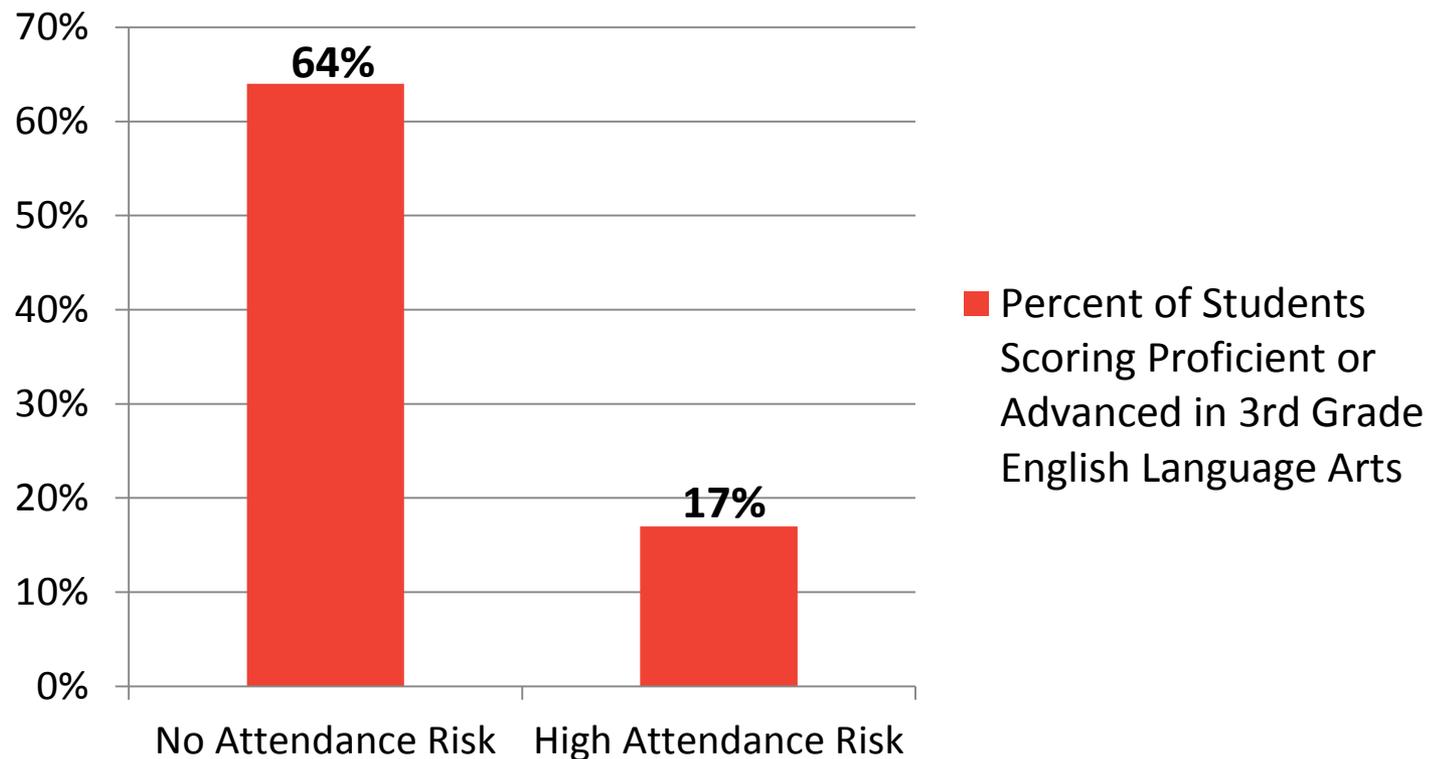


# If You're Not in School, You Can't Benefit From What Is Taught



# Students Chronically Absent in Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Much Less Likely to Read Proficiently in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

**Percent of Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced  
in 3rd Grade English Language Arts**



Source: Applied Survey Research & Attendance Works (April 2011)

