

Helpful tips for improving attendance...

- Teach you children to use alarm clocks
- Pack backpack and lunches the night before
- Choose clothes the night before
- Complete homework the night before it is due, not that morning.
- Get a good night's rest.
Preschool 10-12 hours
6-9 y.o. 10 hours
10-12 y.o. 9-9.5 hours
Teens 8-9.5 hours
- Stress the value of education and graduation
- Encourage your child to get involved in at least one activity, club, sport, or organization



VALLEY VIEW COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 365U

VVSD Mission Statement

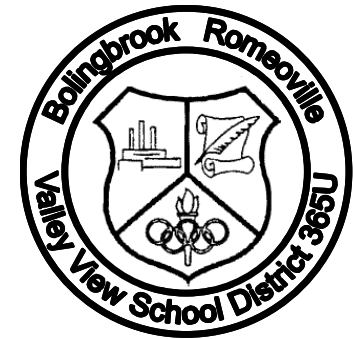
Valley View School District 365U and the Board of Education, in partnership with the diverse community we serve, will maintain a safe environment for students and staff by providing encouragement for engaged learning opportunities that result in continuous improvement for all students.

Board of Education Belief Statements

1. Every student can learn, and every student will learn when presented with the right opportunities to do so.
2. The participation of the family and community are a vital component of educational success for each student.
3. All schools are learning organizations and students are best thought of as voluntary members of that organization.
4. Teachers are instructional leaders and designers of work for students: work that engages the students to learn important content and develop critical intellectual habits and skills.
5. Principals provide leadership necessary for teachers to act as instructional leaders by modeling, nurturing, and providing necessary systems and supports.
6. The primary goal of the superintendent is to articulate and promote a compelling vision based on shared beliefs. It is the role of the superintendent to ensure these beliefs and this vision are used as standards to determine and evaluate district results.
7. The Board has an obligation to ensure safe and secure facilities while maintaining fiscal integrity.

VALLEY VIEW COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 365U

Attendance and Truancy Guide



Current Research on Attendance and Grades

In a study conducted by the US Department of Education, children who are chronically absent in kindergarten have the lowest performance overall in first grade. They also found that those students who miss at least 10% of their kindergarten school year score lowest in Reading and Math in 5th grade.

The National Center on School Engagement stated that truancy is correlated with poor performance on standardized tests, high school dropout, juvenile delinquency, and substance abuse.

When students fall behind at school it may be difficult, perhaps impossible to make up lost ground and “catch up”.

References

Jacobson, Linda. "Absences in Early Grades Tied to Learning Lags." *Education Week* 28, no. 6 (October 1, 2008)

“Assessing the Prevalance of Truancy: A Four Piece Puzzle.” *National Center on School Engagement* (October, 2006)

“Youth Out of School: Linking Absence to Delinquency.” Colorado Foundation for Families and Children. (September, 2002)



Valley View 365U District Policy

Compulsory School Attendance

Whoever has custody or control of a child between the ages of 7 and 17 years of age (unless the child has graduated from high school) must cause the child to attend the District school wherein the child is assigned, except as provided herein or by State law.

Subject to specific requirements in State law, the following children are not required to attend public school: (1) any child attending a private school (including a home school) or parochial school, (2) any child who is physically or mentally unable to attend school (including a pregnant student suffering medical complications as certified by her physician), (3) any child lawfully and necessarily employed, (4) any child over 12 and under 14 years of age while in confirmation classes, (5) any child absent because his or her religion forbids secular activity on a particular day, and (6) any child 16 years of age or older who is employed and is enrolled in a graduation incentives program.

The parent/guardian of a student who is enrolled must authorize all absences from school and notify the school in advance or at the time of the student's absence. A valid cause for absence includes illness, observance of a religious holiday, death in the immediate family, family emergency, other situations beyond the control of the student, other circumstances that cause reasonable concern to the parent/guardian for the student's safety or health, or other reason as approved by the Superintendent or designee.

Parent Responsibilities



- Make sure your child is on time to school every day. Let the school know if this is a problem and try to work out a solution
- If your child expresses concern about going to school, contact the teacher or principal for advice and assistance
- If your child is struggling academically, arrange to have a conference with the teacher
- Make the school aware of serious medical conditions that your child has and supply the school with a doctor's statement
- Talk to your child daily about school activities and ask to see homework assignments
- Participate in activities and volunteer at your child's school. Attend all open house or curriculum night events
- Cooperate with the school when you are contacted about your child's absenteeism
- Make sure you know who your child's friends are