

Attendance Assistance Program

APRIL 2024

The term “spring fever” is very real. Daylight hours increase, the weather warms, energy surges, and classrooms everywhere are full of distractions. The dip in motivation during this predictable period is heightened by other factors, from the onset of allergy season to the stress brought on by standardized testing.

Tips for Preventing This Year’s Attendance Decline

-Communicate about the negative impacts of chronic absenteeism (missing more than 10% of the school year) and remind students that attendance every day is important. Attendance before and after any school break is lower, and just like the winter break, spring break takes its toll if parents and teachers don’t work together to promote good attendance. Parents should be sure to communicate with schools about any changes in their home that may impact the student wanting to be in school.

-Schools should check in regularly with students who are at risk to make sure they aren’t experiencing any new barriers that would prevent them from coming to school as the weather warms up.

-Make it fun Schools often offer extra treats, study sessions, and other amenities around standardized testing season for students feeling anxiety about their performance. Consider ways to expand these and broaden their appeal. At home, having ice cream or an extra 15 minutes of screen time as a treat for making it through the day could motivate students to keep getting up and going to school.

