

Support and Resources for Oregon Students

School attendance is one of the strongest predictors of student success. Attending regularly—every day possible—helps students build relationships, stay on track academically, and feel a sense of belonging.

Each student may have unique needs that affect their regular school attendance. Every family faces challenges, and it's okay to ask for help. In Oregon, we believe in caring for the whole child—mind, body, and heart. With support from nonprofit organizations, school programs, and city, county and state programs, there are many caring people ready to help your student and family and ensure your student can experience the benefits of being present in school when they experience attendance barriers.

Some common reasons students miss school include:

- Transportation challenges
- Health concerns, including mental health or dental health
- Immediate needs, such as clothing or food
- Housing instability or homelessness
- Academic struggles
- Emotional challenges or peer conflict, including bullying
- Caregiver work schedules that make school-day routines harder

We partner with many local “helper” organizations who are ready to support your family in getting your student to school. Reach out to [211.org](https://www.211.org) or call 211 to be connected to local services—they're a key partner in Oregon's Every Day Matters effort.

If you are needing additional support, your school might have additional information about the following areas:

ACADEMIC STRUGGLES: If your student is having a hard time with schoolwork or feeling discouraged, contact their teacher or school counselor as soon as possible. Staying connected with school will help your student get the support they need to succeed.

ISSUES WITH PEERS, INCLUDING BULLYING: If you suspect your student is being bullied or having other issues with friends, speak with them. It's important to share this concern with your student's school counselor or school administrator, as well. Find resources on the [ODE Bullying and Harassment Prevention](#) webpage.

HEALTH OR DENTAL CONCERNS: Local dental offices provide low-cost or free care for students.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS SUCH AS CLOTHING OR FOOD: Schools can connect families to food pantries, clothing closets, and local organizations that offer school supplies.

HOUSING INSTABILITY: If you or your family is experiencing housing instability, please reach out to your school district's McKinney-Vento coordinator.

TRANSPORTATION: The school district website has information about bus routes. Some communities also offer “walking buses,” carpools, or other creative options. School office staff can help you explore what's available.

CAREGIVER WORK SCHEDULES: Caregiver work schedules don't always align with school schedules. Connect with your school for resources for before/after school care, transportation and alternatives to older students filling this need.