

Starting the Year with Strong Attendance Practices

Throughout the year, the Every Day Matters team will continue providing attendance-related, topic-specific resources and support to schools and districts. This brief page of resources is meant to be a starting point for getting students off to a strong start in September.

Setting the stage:

- Ensure that each student will experience a [Welcoming School Environment](#) from the very first day!
- Create a [District Attendance Leadership team](#) to review data and trends, develop communication plans, and monitor progress on attendance goals.
- [Plan for Increasing Regular Attendance](#)- year long planning template.
- Create a proactive plan to [Re-engage Students after an Exclusionary Discipline Event](#).

Strong communication practices:

Strong communication practices play a vital role in improving regular school attendance by fostering shared understanding, trust, and a sense of belonging among students, families, educators, and community partners. Research confirms that positive, culturally responsive messaging about attendance, delivered early and consistently, and in alignment with broader district strategies, helps everyone understand the connection between attendance and academic success, social connection, and personal growth.

- [Positive Attendance Messaging-Promising Practices](#) can support your district messaging grounded in care and support.
- Resources for registration, welcome packets, or open house events:
 - [Why Attendance Matters](#): Updated translations will available soon on the [EDM webpage](#).
 - [Attendance Tracker: This version](#) can be customized with student ID number.
 - [Resources to Support Attendance Barriers: This version](#) can be customized with your school information.
 - [When to Go to School-Health Guidance](#): This resource was developed in partnership with the Oregon Health Authority and provides clarity for staff and families on illness symptoms. Translations are available on the [EDM website](#).
 - [Attendance and Early Literacy](#): This resource makes connections between reading, writing, and attendance.
- Grade-level specific handouts for families with information and tips can be found on the [Attendance Works website](#).
- [Educators](#) can connect with families early in the school year to start strong communication.
- [Positive Community Connections](#) help support cross-sector collaboration to support attendance.

Ongoing support from ODE:

The Every Day Matters team will again host a virtual [Attendance Learning Series](#), aimed at providing support and resources to personnel working directly with students to address barriers to attendance and the root causes of chronic absenteeism.

- [Please register](#) for this year-long Learning Series and share with your networks!