

# San Francisco: Present For Our Future



Daily attendance is critical to success in school. When children miss class, regardless of whether absences are excused or unexcused, they miss out on learning opportunities. Too many young San Franciscans, starting in kindergarten or even preschool, are chronically absent, meaning they miss 18 or more days a year in excused and unexcused absences.

Whether you are an educator, child care providers, afterschool teacher, parent organizer, or any other committed community partner - you can help! Check out our on line toolkit: Present for the Future: Working Together to Reduce Chronic Absence in San Francisco below to learn about how you can help children, especially our youngest students, get to school starting this Fall.



## Back-to-School Success: 3 Steps to Reduce Chronic Absence This Fall

- 1. Emphasize Why Attendance Matters in Kindergarten Transition and Back-to-School Activities**  
The toolkit offers interactive exercises, videos and handouts that convey the message to families that early absences add up to academic trouble.
- 2. Recognize Good and Improved Attendance**  
The toolkit offers ideas for how to motivate and encourage students and their families to show up every day, starting in preschool.
- 3. Lay the Groundwork for Reviewing Absences During Parent-Teacher Conferences**  
The toolkit offer tips for how to include examining the impact of absences on academic achievement in parent-teacher conferences.

<http://bit.ly/SanFranciscoToolkit>

# How Community Partners and Parent Leaders Can Help

## You Can:

-  Deliver handouts and tips to families and homes in your community
-  Help cover printing costs for attendance banners, posters and stickers
-  Speak at kindergarten transition and back-to-school events and assemblies recognizing good and improved attendance
-  Provide small tokens or healthy snacks as prizes for improved attendance
-  Post names of students with good attendance in newsletters or bulletin boards
-  Support families with challenges such as health, housing or transportation
-  Launch a "Walking School Bus" or organized walk to school for students
-  Support a breakfast-in-the-classroom program to encourage on-time attendance
-  Talk to students and families in afterschool and early childhood programs about why attendance matters

