

Daily attendance often plummets before and following spring break. When educators know to expect high numbers of absences, they can plan ahead and offer activities to encourage attendance and participation, whether school is in-person, remote or a hybrid. Reach out to families for ideas and help when planning and carrying out special activities. Local community groups, churches, businesses or school boards often will provide technical and financial supports.

Choose from the following ideas to plan your own approach to addressing the spring dip. Pick those that are most suitable for your school community and grade levels.

In-Person Instruction

1. **Mentor Program:** Assign 5th-grade buddies to kindergarten students to prepare them for 1st grade. See our [Success Mentors toolkit](#).
2. **Spirit Week:** Engage students through competitions (academic or non-academic) and themed days where students dress up as a hero or draw a picture of themselves as the hero. [Download](#) our [Sprinting Through Spring](#) calendar with sample activities.
3. **Shows/Showcases:** Showcase upcoming summer or afterschool expanding learning programs, hold in-person performances, talent show or a puppet show, spotlight long-term activities and awards.
4. **Field Trips:** Organize opportunities to learn outside the classroom by visiting zoos, planetariums, local farms, historical sites or museums. Ensure policies are inclusive so that all students can attend.
5. **Caring Messages:** Write caring letters to be sent home when students or family members are ill.
6. **Caring Activities:** Provide beauty products, personal items (hygiene) or free fruit in classrooms several times a week.
7. **College/Career Spirit:** Ask high schoolers to submit a college application or identify a future career. Younger students can draw a picture of their future.
8. **Food Banks:** Arrange a friendly food bank donation competition between schools, districts or within zip codes. Ask students to bring canned and fresh food to school.

Remote Instruction

1. **Mentor Program:** Connect 5th-grade buddies with kindergarten students via a supervised [e-mentor platform](#).
2. **Spirit Week:** Engage students through competitions (academic and non-academic) and days with a specific activity. See our [Sprinting Through Spring](#) calendar for ideas.
3. **Shows/Showcases:** Virtually stream virtual showcases, performances and share long-term projects. Drop off awards at students' homes or where they are learning remotely.
4. **Field Trips:** Organize virtual field trips that can be taken from home.
 - Ideas include watching [zoo](#) and [aquarium](#) webcams, exploring farms through [educational on-site videos](#), locating astronomical features via a [virtual planetarium](#), delving into a plethora of biomes with [The Nature Conservancy](#), and taking [virtual tours of museums](#).
5. **Caring Messages:** Organize a drive by homes where students or families are ill, holding large "Get Well Soon!" posters.
6. **Caring Activities:** Older students can be trained to lead movement or mindfulness activities over Zoom.
7. **College/Career Spirit:** High schoolers share the college where they have submitted an application or a future career. Younger students draw a picture of their future and share online.
8. **Food Banks:** Virtually organize a friendly food bank competition and ask students or families to drop off canned and fresh food at school.
 - For more Spirit Week ideas download our [Sprinting Through Spring](#) calendar. Consider adapting the calendar for any month and changing the activities to suit your school community and grade levels.
 - For more ideas visit our webpage: <https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/spring-attendance-slump/>