

# Attendance Works



Chronic absenteeism is typically defined as missing 10 percent or more of a school year -- approximately 18 days a year, or just two days every month. And across the nation, 5 to 7.5 million students are chronically absent.

Missing school may affect your child's behavior and academics. It can be a predictor of lower test scores, poor attendance and retention in later grades, especially if the problem persists for more than a year. Worse yet, chronic absenteeism can build a habit of bad attendance that will carry into your child's college years and their career.

What can families do to help?

- Build regular routines for bed time and the morning for your child.
- Talk about the importance of regular attendance and about how your child feels about school.
- Don't permit missing school unless your child is truly sick. Use a thermometer to check for a fever. Remember that stomach aches and headaches may be signs of anxiety.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.
- Keep a chart recording your child's attendance at home. At the end of the week, talk with your child about what you see.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Ask family members, neighbors, or another parent for help.
- Seek support from school staff or community groups to help with transportation, health problems, or a safe path to school.

★ **Catalina Torres, Parent Involvement Coordinator**

## Around Town

**Illinois Action for Children** in partnership with **Georgetown College** will offer a **Resume Writing Assistance** session. Participants will get assistance in creating a professional resume. It will be at the IAFC Homewood Office located on 17926 S. Halsted St., Homewood, IL, on Monday, March 4, 2019 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please come prepared with information regarding your education, employment history, and personal skills. Let your Family Engagement Specialist or Parent Educator know that you are interested in participating in this event.

**Prairie State College** will hold its annual **Job Fair** on Friday, March 29, 2019 from 9:00 am to noon at the Franciscan Health Fitness Center located on 100 W. 197th Place, Chicago Heights, IL. Registration is not necessary. You may visit [www.prairiestate.edu/jobfair](http://www.prairiestate.edu/jobfair) for a full list of employers who will be at the event.

**Homewood Science Center** on 18280 Dixie Highway, Homewood, IL is open to the public for families and individuals to participate in PopUp SCIENCE. Neuroscience, physics, engineering, botany, astronomy, anatomy, and social science are just some of the STEAM topics you can explore – ALL FREE. Visit [www.homewoodsciencecenter.org](http://www.homewoodsciencecenter.org) to learn more.

**beWELL** in Suburban Cook County is a comprehensive resource for growth from preschool to working adulthood. Separated into three phases, the goal of this resource is to provide a path for you and your family to Work, Earn, Live and Learn. Whether your family is preparing to welcome a new addition, or you are a head of household looking to make steps toward self-sufficiency, beWELL is your one-stop-shop for the assistance you need to accomplish your goals. Visit <https://bewell.thehacc.org/> to view these helpful resources.