

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 really 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.
- Create a proactive plan to welcome students who may have been excluded from school for disciplinary reasons in the previous school year with the resource for [Re-engaging after an Exclusionary Discipline Event](#).

Strong communication practices:

It may be helpful to include specific resources for families that educate about attendance as essential to student learning and help them to make decisions about when to send students to school and in what circumstances students would need to be kept home with health symptoms.

- [Why Attendance Matters](#) is a customizable letter for families that shares why attendance is important. This could be used in registration or welcome packets, or other communication that schools send home to help families know how to reach out for support for their student(s). (Translations coming soon)
- Accompanying, grade-level specific handouts for families with information and tips can be found at the [Attendance Works website](#).
- [When to Go to School-Health Guidance](#) a handout developed in partnership with the Oregon Health Authority. This handout provides clarity for both school staff as well as families on health-related symptoms that would impact the decision for a student to be in school. This is translated in our most common languages on the [EDM website](#).

Ongoing support from ODE:

New for the 2024-2025 School Year! The Every Day Matters team will be hosting a virtual Attendance Community of Practice, 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 Community of Practice.
- Please share with your networks!