

Greetings Student and Parents,

We hope you are all off to a great start to the 2020-21 school year in the Cocke County School system! We are excited to work with you to help students reach their academic goals with hard work and determination to succeed. We are writing to you today to discuss Chronic Absenteeism and the impact on your student's education.

Every absence, excused or unexcused, is a learning opportunity lost and can have significant impacts on a student's success in school and life. A student who misses 10% or more of their school days, which amounts to 18 or more days in a school year—or just two days a month—for any reason is considered chronically absent. Chronically absent students are more likely to fall behind in reading and math and less likely to graduate from high school. Addressing chronic absenteeism and developing good attendance habits is a solvable problem for which we all share responsibility.

If there are issues that impact your student's ability to attend school regularly (i.e. ongoing illness, mental health issues, etc.) please contact the school attendance secretary and they can direct you as to what your next step will be and who you need to speak with.

We need your help to encourage your student to:

- establish and stick to basic routines (i.e. prepare for the school day in the evening, go to bed early, wake up on time, etc.)
- Talk to your student about the importance of going to school every day
- Come up with back-up plans if transportation to school falls through (i.e. family members who can help, neighbor, fellow parents, etc.)
- Reach out for help when you fall on hard times (other parents, your student's teachers, counselors, principal, social worker, school nurse, community agencies, etc.)
- If absent contact teachers to get missed assignments

With your help we hope that your student will succeed in school **EVERYDAY!**

Thank you,

**Cocke County Schools Attendance Counts**

**Every Student Counts**

**EveryDay Counts**

**Every Minute Counts**