

Why Attendance Matters:

Good attendance helps to set the stage and develop "soft skills" that future employers expect and require. Soft skills are habits and behaviors such as responsibility, time management, dependability, and attitude. Dependability and work ethic are valued above all other soft skills. Good attendance and positive experiences in elementary, middle and high school can help children develop these and more soft skills that set them up for success later in life. Poor attendance contributes to students dropping out of high school and often leaves them without the skills needed to compete in the workforce. Poor attendance can hurt a person's chances of getting a job whereas good attendance can improve their chances.

How Good Attendance Habits relate to Good Work Habits and Soft Skills:

Good School Attendance Habits	Good Work Habits	Soft Skills that Employers Expect
Have a regular bed time routine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out clothes and pack backpacks the night before. Help your pre-teen or teen stick to daily routines (getting plenty of sleep each night, finishing homework daily) 	Prepare for work the night before. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make your lunch. Take your shower. Make sure you've got enough gas in your car so you don't have to stop on your way to work. Get plenty of sleep each night. 	Time Management Dependability Self-Management Responsibility Organization
Have a regular morning routine.	Set your alarm clock each night. If you tend to hit the snooze button, put your alarm clock away from your bed as opposed to a nightstand so you have to get out of bed to turn it off.	Time Management Dependability Self-Management Responsibility
Have a back-up plan to get your child to school when something comes up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can a neighbor or family member take them to school? 	Plan ahead for circumstances that could make you late for work. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have one or more alternate routes to work in case of traffic delays. Plan to arrive to work 10-15 minutes early so you have extra time in case other issues arise. 	Attendance Punctuality Responsibility Flexibility

Where to go for more information:

Parent to Parent of Georgia 770-451-5484 or 800-229-2038 or www.p2pga.org

Georgia Department of Education, Division for Special Education Services and Supports

404-656-3963 or 800-311-3627 and ask to be transferred to Special Education

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/default.aspx>

Additional resources: Contact your child's teacher, the school principal, and/or the Special Education Director for your school system.

Credits:

www.Attendanceworks.org