**SUNCOAST**
The Campaign for
**GRADE-LEVEL
READING**

**3rd Grade Reading Success Matters**



*2017 Suncoast Attendance Awareness Poster Contest*

# Parents are the secret sauce!

Help us make a difference in our community.

Children look up to their parents and think they are the bee's knees! This is a great advantage, because as parents set the stage for success in the early years and early grades, kids are ready to taste the sweetness of what it means to succeed.

Parents play the most powerful and influential role in their children's lives

and that's why the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading recognizes that parents are the secret sauce!

Making sure that children show up for school every day is one of the best things you can do to help close the gap. Research shows that children who miss school often (about 18 days) in kindergarten and first grade are far less likely to read well by the end of third grade.

Parents often are unaware of the souring effects of absenteeism and how quickly absences add up to academic trouble in the early grades. Low-income families, in particular, face challenges with health, transportation or housing that contribute to school absences. To make progress on attendance, the Campaign encourages communities to focus on helping parents strengthen three competencies:

## 1. Recognize and address health needs and environmental hazards in the home.

* The leading cause of absenteeism in the early grades is illness. Asthma alone is responsible for 14 million missed days of school every year. Dental problems contribute to millions more.

Sometimes it's hard to know the right choice to make: should my child go to school today or stay home? A good idea might be to keep track of absences and if the number seems like it's getting high, connect with your child's health provider (health providers are well positioned to connect families with needed health services and encourage school attendance).

Parents are not in this alone. Communities can be supportive by keeping children healthy too:

* Encourage guardians to schedule regular doctor appointments: Work with families to ensure every child has a "medical home," which means having a doctor or clinic to regularly visit for annual checkups and when illness occurs.

* Emphasize good dental care: Expand access to dental care and ensure that parents know about good dental habits.
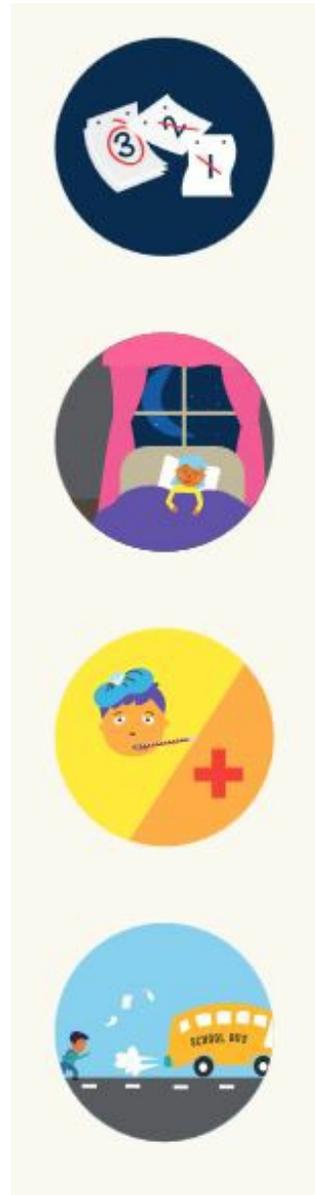
## 2. Monitor absences and

## 1 in 10 kids

in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it's as high as 1 in 4.[1]

seek support at the earliest signs of attendance issues.

It can be hard to pay attention to the number of absences a child may have accumulated when a parent is dealing with their own personal disasters.

*click to see full graphic*

A key component of improving attendance is helping families to monitor how many days of school a child has missed and to seek support to reduce absences as soon as students start missing two or more days in a month. While children's health issues are a leading reason why children miss too much school, other obstacles may include transportation, inclement weather, parent illness, homelessness and more.

**Start Tracking Together**

Attendance Works offers tools for parents to set attendance goals with teachers including a Student Attendance Success Plan with a Family's Help Bank that helps parents think through who can assist in getting children to school. Other resources include Checklist of Interventions to consider in addressing barriers to attendance and Parent Tip Sheets for talking with social workers and school counselors.

## 3. Establish an expectation and a plan for daily school attendance.

When parents establish an expectation of daily school attendance and anticipate potential obstacles, children are less likely to miss school. Being in school every day makes it more likely that children learn and keep pace with instruction.

64%
of kids with good attendance in K and 1st
(missed 9 or fewer days both years)

43%
of kids with at-risk attendance
(missed more than 9 days both years)

41%
of kids chronically absent in K or 1st
(missed 18 or more days one year)

17%
of kids chronically absent in K and 1st
(missed 18 or more days both years)

*click to see full graphic*

**Community Update Breakfast - Thursday, Oct 5,**

Community Update Breakfast - Thu, Oct 5, 2017

Join more than 200+ passionaries and possibilitarians at the SCGLR Community Update Breakfast:

**SHARE** in the accomplishments of the past 12 months

**LEARN** about the current work happening in our region

**CONNECT** with other community members as we strengthen our resolve to help all children succeed in school by ensuring they read on grade-level by the end of third grade.

**SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

7:30AM      Mix-N-Mingle & Breakfast

8:00AM      Presentation Begins
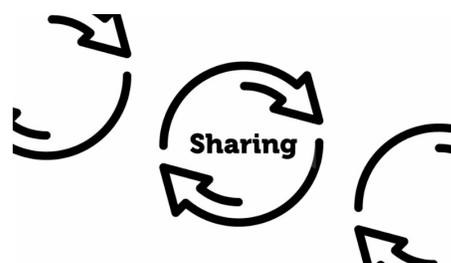
9:00AM      Closing

Registration deadline is 5pm EDT, Friday, September 29.

**REGISTER TODAY**

## Newsletter Signup

Do you have friends, family, colleagues or neighbors who you think would be interested in signing up for the monthly SCGLR Newsletter? If so, please share by using the sharing icons at the top of the newsletter.



Research shows that proficiency in reading by the end of third grade enables students to shift from learning

to read to reading to learn and to master the more complex subject matter they encounter in the fourth-grade curriculum.

We look forward to sharing engaging news and updates with you. The Patterson Foundation respects your privacy and will not share or sell your contact information.

To be added into the SCGLR or 0-5 Express newsletter distribution list, please click HERE. To be added into the Spanish 0-5 Express newsletter distribution list, please click HERE. Provide your first and last name in addition to your preferred email address.

## Get Connected

Visit the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading "Library" Archive
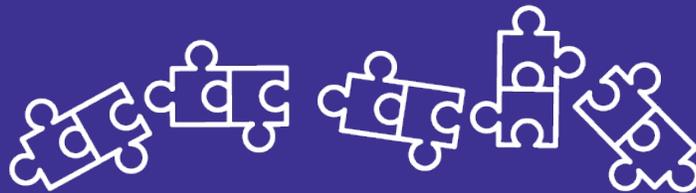
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We welcome your thoughts.
Contact us at info@GradeLevelReadingSuncoast.net.

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