

# Chickasha Public Schools

February 2025

## Newsletter

### *From the Superintendent's Desk*

Greetings! I hope that you had a wonderful holiday season and even better start to the new year. This year promises to be one of excitement, new opportunities, growth, and accomplishments. With the first semester behind us and January in the books, we must take every opportunity to work together and ensure a great education for ALL students. Success in education comes from hard work, good attendance, and a commitment to learn and grow.

At CPS we are focused on Every Student, Every Day, Every Hour. Our goal is to see each student succeed in the classroom by working collaboratively with our parents & colleagues. Attendance is a key component of a student being successful in school. We do understand that illness does a play a factor in attendance. If running a fever, it is recommended to remain at home until you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medications.

Let's make 2025 a great year of success from the classroom to the field.

Rick Croslin

**We are incredibly grateful for the continued support from our staff, students, parents, and community members for Chickasha Public Schools!**



### Why attendance matters...

- Only 17% of students considered chronically absent in kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade was reading proficient by the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- Over 2/3 of fourth graders in the United States are NOT reading on grade level.
- By 6<sup>th</sup> grade, chronic absenteeism is a leading indicator that a student could drop out of high school.
- Students who attend school regularly are more likely to graduate & find good jobs.
- A high school graduate makes \$1 million more than a dropout over a lifetime.
- The good news is- students can reverse poor academic performance with improved attendance.

# Chronic Absenteeism

## *Every day, every class matter!*

Chronic absenteeism is defined by a student missing more than 10% of the school semester or year for any reason. Anytime a student is not in class or at school they are counted as absent even when parents or guardians call in and report their absence. For CPS, students who miss more than 16 days in a school year or 8 days in a semester are considered chronically absent. Here are a few things to note...

- In determining if a student is chronically absent from school all absences are included with the exception of participation in school activities or events (i.e. – sports).
- There is no distinction or consideration for excused absences. Excused & unexcused absences are counted the same.
- Absences included in chronic absenteeism includes excused, unexcused, doctor notes, funerals, court appearances, and more.

Why is this topic important?

Students need to be at school each day to ensure they are learning and in compliance with Oklahoma's compulsory attendance law. Students considered to be chronically absent are at a greater risk of academic failure and is considered an early predictor of not successfully completing school.

What can parents or guardians do to help with chronic absenteeism?

- Make sure that your student is at class every day, every hour.
- Plan trips, doctor appointments, etc. for students that are outside of the school day.
- Avoid checking your student out unless absolutely necessary (emergencies).
- Work with your student's principal on a plan for successfully attending school.

