

Students thrive when they are in school. They belong in our classrooms—all day, every day.



Missing School is a Problem

Chronic absenteeism is an issue throughout the nation. Before the pandemic, about 10 percent of R-H students were chronically absent. Last year, that number more than doubled to 21 percent. A student is considered chronically absent if missing school at least 10 percent of the time. That's a minimum of 18 days during the year. This time adds up fast! A student who is absent twice a month misses more than 1,000 minutes of critical learning time.

What We're Doing About It

Rush-Henrietta is working hard to make sure students are in school. We are:

- making home visits to encourage select students to attend school.
- expanding our Social-Emotional Learning offerings in each of our schools.
- reinforcing the benefits of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports.
- refining the use of restorative practices to help students better connect.
- reviewing absenteeism data throughout the school year to assess our progress.

Act Quickly to Address the Issue

Challenges with school attendance often are related to anxiety and feeling disconnected. Should you detect even a week of new or unusual resistance to going to school, please contact your child's teacher, counselor, or principal. We will partner with you to help address the situation. Helping students feel connected to adults at school is a wonderful way to increase attendance.



Four Ways to Help Your Student Thrive

- 1 Maintain a consistent schedule for your child. Set a regular bedtime.
- 2 Make it clear that school attendance is important. Being in class matters.
- 3 Help your student get connected to a trusted adult at school.
- 4 Do everything it takes to get your student to school on time.

Be on Time: The Surprising Reason R-H Students Miss Instructional Time

The number one reason R-H high school students are referred to the principal is because of late arrivals to school. Consider this: if a high school student misses just half of one class period each day for a full school year, that's 120 hours of missed instruction - for just that one student!

Many families have gotten into the habit of driving their students to school. While that is still an option, please consider having your child ride the school bus this year. This is one way to help our learners be to school on time every morning.

To learn more about student absenteeism and its effects visit rhnet.org/impact.