



Michigan Online School Strive For Fewer Than 5!

Strive For Fewer Than 5! is a school-wide initiative addressing chronic absenteeism and sharing the importance of attending school regularly.

The U.S. Department of Education defines **chronic absenteeism** as missing at least 10% of school days for any reason. Chronic absenteeism spiked in the U.S. during the COVID-19 pandemic, and is currently one of the most pressing issues in education today.

Chronic absenteeism has serious consequences for students. Missing large amounts of school time disrupts academic progress, causes gaps in learning, and makes it harder for students to stay on track with peers. Students who are chronically absent are more likely to fall behind in reading and math, struggle with standardized tests, and repeat grades. Over time, these academic challenges increase the risk of dropping out entirely. Research shows that students with consistent attendance are more likely to earn higher grades, are 2.5 times more likely to graduate high school, and, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, high school graduates earn about 25% more money on average than people who do not finish high school, while students who miss too much school are less prepared for college, career, and life after graduation.

We're excited to kick off our **Strive For Fewer Than 5!** campaign to help students build great attendance habits. This initiative motivates students to keep their absences under five for the school year, highlighting the importance of being present and engaged every day. Students who meet this goal will be celebrated with monthly shout-outs in The Phoenix Rising newsletter and achievement certificates mailed to their homes. By rewarding consistent attendance, we hope to build a culture where students and families see the value of showing up, staying connected, and striving for excellence. Together, we will celebrate attendance and learning with **Strive For Fewer Than 5!**

Sources

<https://www.ed.gov/teaching-and-administration/supporting-students/chronic-absenteeism>

<https://www.murrayschools.org/crucial-link-attendance-success/#:~:text=A%20national%20survey%20revealed%20th at,risk%20of%20falling%20behind%20academically.>

<https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2023/data-on-display/education-pays.htm>