



September 2016 Teacher Newsletter

www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/my-childmy-student

School Attendance/Parent-Teacher Conferences

As teachers, you know that when a student is absent from school, the student misses valuable instructional time. You can assist these students by discussing with parents the importance of school attendance, as well as how they can help their child catch up on assignments if their child must miss school.

Parent-teacher conferences are great opportunities to talk to parents about attendance, as well as student progress. Take this opportunity to discuss a students' academic goals and how students will reach those goals with their parents' help. Provide resources that are easy for parents to understand and use. The following U.S. Department of Education resources are a few examples.

- **U.S. Department of Education:** www.ed.gov or 1-800-USA-LEARN
- **Parents Page:** www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml
- **Federal Resources for Educational Excellence:** www.ed.gov/free/index.html
- **Parental Information and Resource Centers:** www.ed.gov/programs/pirc/index.html
- **Homework Tips for Parents:** <http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/involve/homework/index.html>

As you prepare for your first parent-teacher conference this school year, consider asking yourself or your students' parents the following questions.

- How can I convey to parents the importance of student attendance?
- How does missing a day of school affect my students' educational progress?
- How can I encourage parents to attend parent-teacher conferences?
- What information about student and class goals do I need to share with parents?
- What resources can I share with parents to help their child succeed?
- What information about Academic Improvement Plans (AIP) should I share with parents?

National Preparedness Month

Emergency drills are extremely important, as they give students the opportunity to practice safety procedures. Parents play a vital role in student safety, so let them know about the various safety drills that will occur throughout the school year. Be sure to inform parents about student pick-up procedures in the event of an emergency. Consider sharing the following information from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/BeReady/index.html>.

When planning for an emergency in your classroom, consider the following questions.

- What is my school's emergency policy and procedures?
- What do I need to do if an emergency occurs during school hours?
- What safety drills do I need to practice with my students in case of an emergency?
- What parent contact information do I need to have for students?
- How can I reassure parents that their child will be safe if an emergency occurs?