



District Administration Office

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Brookings-Harbor Voices PSA – Students Chronically Absent

Hi, this is Sean Gallagher – Brookings Harbor School District 17C Superintendent here to talk to you about students that are considered chronically absent by Oregon Department of Education. Chronic absenteeism is defined as students that are attending school less than 90% of the time they are enrolled. Currently, more than 25% of Brookings-Harbor School District students are chronically absent according to the state. Another way of thinking about it is one in four students are not attending school adequately.

Statewide trends indicate just under 20% are considered chronically absent. Our local school district models the statewide trends with special education and/or social economically challenged students struggling the most with attendance.

Prevention strategies vary. Incentives of building strong professional relationships with students and parents are most effective. Research is very clear, when a student feels connected to school, they stay in school. Great examples of district efforts include programs like the BHHS Extended Day program or the new intramural athletic program.

A vested community interest exists to ensure students attend school. Serious economic challenges emerge for students that do not graduate with a high school diploma and have a limited skill set for employers. Chronically absent students also are much more likely to become dropouts.

What can you do? Follow the lead of the school district by:

1. Acknowledging that one in four chronically absent students is not an acceptable attendance rate;
2. Encourage school attendance of students through social or economic relationships;
3. Help to support programs by volunteering &/or making donations to help ensure program success.

For more information on chronic absenteeism, please contact the school district office at 541-469-7443

Remember that only together we can ensure that Every Student Can Succeed here at Brookings-Harbor School District