



# Early Literacy Matters!

## Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

### Monthly Newsletter | September 2019

The goal of the monthly newsletter is to provide information and resources that will help children in our region meet the critical benchmark of reading at grade level by the start of fourth grade. Please spread the word and share with anyone you know who is invested in helping children learn while developing a joy of reading. In this issue, you'll learn about Attendance Awareness, and resources that are available in Hartford and New Britain.

## SEPTEMBER IS ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH!



Everybody plays a role in ensuring our children attend school regularly. Here are a few recommendations parents and families, school officials and community-based organizations can use to rally their communities to take action on attendance. Help Send the Message: **Every Day Matters. Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow!**

1. **Good attendance contributes to students doing well in school and eventually in the**

**workplace.**

The early school years are essential for laying a foundation for strong attendance and academic success in future years. By middle and high school, poor attendance is even more predictive of dropout. Each absence represents a preventable lost opportunity to learn in the classroom. We can't afford to think of absenteeism as merely a lack of compliance with school rules.

2. **Students are at risk academically if they are chronically absent (missing just two days a month or 10 percent of the school year).**

When too many absences occur, they can affect learning, regardless of whether absences are excused or unexcused. Sporadic, not just consecutive, absences matter. Before you know it – just one or two days a month can add up to nearly 10 percent of the school year.

3. **Prevent absences whenever possible.**

Some absences are unavoidable, for example, when students have a serious or a contagious illness. But many absences can be prevented by identifying and resolving barriers to attendance. These can be related to transportation, bullying, inadequate supports for students with disabilities or a lack of engaging instruction.

## **STRIVE FOR LESS THAN FIVE DAYS ABSENT THIS SCHOOL YEAR!**



**Tips to share with parents:**

- Make sure your child is up to date on immunizations and keep a copy of your records.
- Visit your school; attend any open houses or orientations to meet your child's teachers.
- Learn about your school attendance policy and dress code.
- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine for your child.
- Register your child for after-school programs and sports. Students who have fun activities to look forward to are more likely to be excited to attend school every day.
- Read to/with your child for at least 20 minutes every day.
- Sign up younger children for preschool.

Don't forget the little ones! It's Back to School time and early learning centers are currently taking applications. Enrollment and regular attendance in preschool helps prepare children to succeed in kindergarten. [Learn more and enroll your child today.](#)



## Resources

- [Attendance Works](#)
- [Consolidated School District of New Britain](#)
- [Hartford Public Schools](#)
- [National Campaign for Grade Level Reading](#)

To learn more or share ideas for future newsletters, contact Latonia Tabb, Senior Manager, Education Initiatives, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut at 860-493-1128 or [ltabb@unitedwayinc.org](mailto:ltabb@unitedwayinc.org).

# Join Us!

[Subscribe to Our Newsletter](#)

[Visit Our Website](#)

With support from individuals, workplaces and grants, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut has provided resources – including financial contributions and volunteers – to local community-based organizations since 1924. We mobilize the people and the resources needed to support programs and initiatives that create lasting solutions for the complex issues facing children and families in the region; such as the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (CGLR).

The Coalition for New Britain's Youth is a citywide collaborative committed to improving the lives of New Britain's youth, birth through age 24, and working to ensure they have what they need to be successful in school, career, and life.

Nationally the CGLR is a partnership between schools, municipalities, businesses and community organizations to rally behind a coordinated effort to ensure all youth are reading on grade level by the end of third grade, a critical milestone and predictor of on-time high school graduation.



*A special thanks to The Fund for Greater Hartford for their investment that supports the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading's communications plan!*



United Way of Central and  
Northeastern Connecticut