

Attendance and State tests

Data indicate that missing more than five days of school each year, regardless of the cause, begins to impact student academic performance and starts shaping attitudes about school. Chronically truant students are not the only students negatively impacted by absences for students in the 6th grade through the 9th grade, student attendance is a better predictor of dropping out of school than test scores. This predictor is not limited to chronically truant students. Excused absences and unexcused absences have similar impact on student academic performance.

While absenteeism is more widespread in middle and high school, it still affects vast numbers of younger students. – Data shows that standardized test scores are significantly affected by elementary students' attendance patterns, to the point that the number of absences is related to the student's chances of "passing" the Georgia Milestone.

Elementary students' school attendance habits often carry over into middle and high school.