



## Question:

Does a student's attendance rate during the first semester of 9<sup>th</sup> grade predict whether they will graduate from DPS within four years?

## Answer: Yes

As 9<sup>th</sup> grade attendance decreases, the odds that a student will graduate from DPS within four years drops dramatically. On average, the graduation rate drops approximately 9% for every four days students are absent before leveling off at 25 or more days.

(See graph below)

Related research suggests the primary factor in absenteeism is lack of student connectedness to school.\*

(See interventions below)

### \*Prevention of Absenteeism

1. Ensure that every student feels close to at least one supportive adult at school.
2. Implement high academic standards *with support* for students to achieve these.
3. Implement fair and consistent discipline policies.
4. Build relationships with parents and encourage parents' high expectations of their children.

\*The Virginia Department of Education has produced an excellent white paper summarizing research on school attendance and provides highly actionable suggestions for improving school attendance.

<http://nnsdfsc.org/files/School%20Attendance%202005.pdf>

**Absenteeism and Graduation Rate**

