# September Monthly Mentor Tip:
## *Attendance: Strive for 95!*

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school -and themselves. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college and at work**.** Our most prominent partner for change, Omaha Public Schools District is initiating the ***Strive for 95 attendance initiative***. The goal is for students to attend school 95% of the time! To support this effort below are some facts and talking point to speak with students throughout the year.

*Did you know?*

- Starting in Kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (about 18 days) can make it hard to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Each minute a student is tardy, those minutes are accumulated and applied toward absences.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

*But YOU make a difference:*

- Students that have a community of caring adults to inspire and support them tend to have better attendance.
- Students often won't remember what you do/say to them but they remember how you made them feel.
- Share with students how to have a voice in their own attendance by setting positive, healthy routines.

**Talking points with students:**

- *Share how good attendance has helped you in your career and life.*

- *Establish a regular school week routine:*

  * Set a regular bed time and morning routine
  * Set an alarm clock and get yourself out of bed on time
  * Go to bed ten minutes earlier, and get up ten minutes earlier
  * Pick out your clothes the night before
  * Take a shower or bath the night before
  * Pack my backpack the night before
  * Make sure your coat is ready for the night before (&/or hats, gloves, umbrella, etc. when appropriate)
  * If you pack a lunch, prepare your lunch the night before

- *Keep track of your own attendance.*

  * Use your school (or other) calendar to track the days you attend school.
  * Let's set a goal of 95% attendance and see if you can reach it.
- *Come to school every day, on time, and attend for the full day.*

## *Partnering with kids from kindergarten to careers!*