

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Absences Add Up

Dear Parent or Family Partner,

I am learning about high school and what I can do to make sure that I graduate on-time. Attending school every day helps a lot. I hope you enjoy this activity with me. This assignment is due \_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,

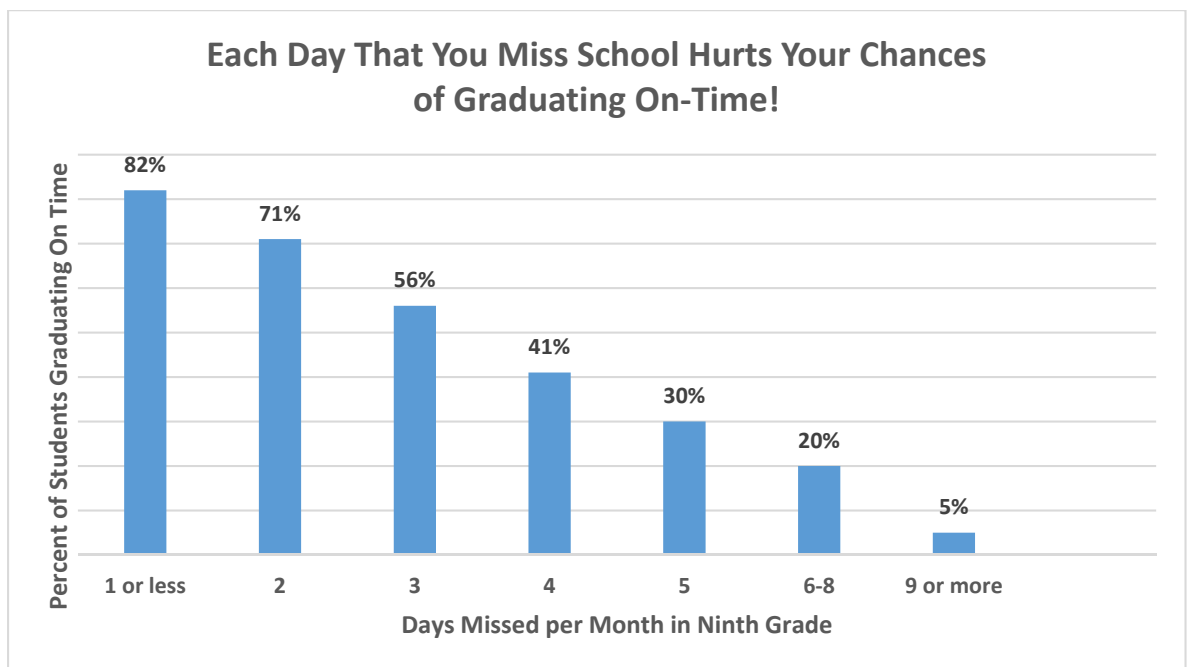
\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

### **SOMETHING TO REMEMBER**

If you graduate on time from high school, you will have a better chance to prepare for the college or career that you really want.

### **PROCEDURE**

With a family partner, look over the graph. Who is working with you? \_\_\_\_\_



The graph shows data from students in a big city in the U.S. Data from other cities show the same trends. You can see that excellent attendance greatly increases a student's chance of success.

**Talk with your family partner about the information in the graph.**

**Which information did you find interesting and important? (Mark one or more answers that you and your family partner agree on.)**

- Ninth graders who miss even two days of school per month are less likely to graduate from high school.
- Ninth graders who miss just one day of school a month are two times more likely to graduate than students who miss four days a month.
- Less than one third of the ninth graders who miss five days a month graduate on time.
- [Something else:] \_\_\_\_\_

## TEXT MESSAGES FROM A MENTOR

Some schools provide some ninth graders with a mentor to coach them and help them have a successful start in high school. The mentor is usually a volunteer who communicates regularly with a student. **Pretend that YOU are mentoring 3 students during their first year in high school.**



Below are descriptions of the 3 students. Read each one aloud to your family partner. Then, check the graph on page 1 to see what the data say about the likely outcome of the student's attendance habits.

Together, create a text message to send to each student. YOU write the message that you and your family partner agree on. For example, you might write a message to warn, encourage, inspire, or offer assistance to the student.

**Student 1. This ninth-grader often skips school on rainy days and Mondays. She is absent about 5 days a month. What message will you send to this student?**

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**Student 2. This ninth-grader comes to school every day. He was absent just one day in the first semester when he had the stomach flu. What message will you send to this student?**

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**Student 3. This ninth-grader misses 2 days of school per month. That adds up to 18 days across the whole school year. What message will you send to this student?**

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## TWEET IT!

*Every Student, Every Day* is a project to improve student attendance across the country. Let's say that the leaders asked you to send a message about attendance to all students entering high school. Using the graph on page 1 and the ideas you discussed with your family partner, write a Tweet to tell 9<sup>th</sup> grade students about the importance of attendance (up to 140 characters including letters, spaces, and punctuation).

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## HOME-TO-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Dear Parent or Family Partner,

Please give your reactions to this activity. Write **YES** or **NO** for each statement.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ My teen understood the homework and was able to discuss it.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ My teen and I enjoyed the activity.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ This assignment helped us talk about the importance of attendance in grade 9 and in high school.

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_