



# Hampton City Schools HERE! Initiative

## WHAT IS THE HERE! PROGRAM?

HERE! Is Hampton's Truancy Prevention and Intervention Program. Schools communicate with and provide interventions to support students and families with school attendance. The program provides a series of truancy related programs and events coordinated and created through collaboration among the Hampton Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, Hampton City Schools, Hampton Department of Social Services, Hampton-Newport News Community Services and other community partners.

## WHAT IS TRUANCY?

Truancy includes unexcused absences from school. Parents/guardians should contact the school for every absence to provide information and/or related documentation.

## WHY IS SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IMPORTANT?

Students who attend school regularly are more likely to succeed academically and socially. Students who do not attend school regularly are more likely to struggle with learning, social connections, and behavior. Truancy is a primary risk factor for social isolation, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, educational failure, and dropping out, potential delinquency activity.

## WHAT ARE HERE! WORKSHOPS?

Workshops focus on why it is important for students to remain engaged in learning. Presenters, from Healthy Families, will also share resources and strategies available to overcome barriers to attendance including the challenges of virtual learning. Students whose parents/guardians attend a workshop will earn absence forgiveness for 2 existing absences. Absence forgiveness means unexcused or excused absences will be converted to Alternative Instructional Sessions (AIS). They do not count as absences from school.

## WHO MAY ATTEND?

Workshops are for parents/guardians and students. Space is limited. Please register for one space **per family** to allow others to sign up. Registration will close the Thursday before each date or earlier if full.

## UPCOMING HERE! WORKSHOP INFORMATION: *(Space is limited)*

### Saturday's @ 9:30-11:00 AM

January 21, 2023  
February 25, 2023  
March 4, 2023  
April 13, 2023  
May 11, 2023  
June 3, 2023

### Thursday's @ 5:30-7PM

December 8, 2022  
January 12, 2023  
February 9, 2023  
March 16, 2023  
April 20, 2023

## REGISTRATION

<https://register.capturepoint.com/Hampton>

Parents/guardians must register in advance to receive the Zoom information. **If parents do not have a *Community Pass* account, they will need to create one. Participants *must* establish their own account.** Contact information and communication are driven by email. Once registered, parents/guardians will receive the link to the program.



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### WHAT IS CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM?

Chronic absenteeism means a student has missed more than 10% of all available school days. That equates to approximately 9 days per semester or 18 days per school year. It includes all excused, unexcused, and suspension-related absences.

### WHAT ARE ACCEPTABLE EXCUSES FOR ABSENCES?

Schools excuse absences based on documentation from medical/dental appointments, court, death in the family, or documentation of diagnosed illness. Parents/guardians can also submit up to five (5) “personal notes” to excuse absences for illnesses that do not require an official doctor’s visit, family travel, etc.

### WHAT ARE ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTIONAL SESSIONS (AIS)?

- Schools offer Alternative Instructional Sessions (AIS) to help students recover lost instructional time and skills.
- Each session takes place outside of the regular school day (e.g., evenings, Saturdays) with a certified teacher.
- Each session lasts a minimum of 90 minutes and can replace a full day of absence. Absences will be changed to “AIS”.
- Contact the School Attendance Office or Administrators to seek information about upcoming AIS opportunities.

### WHAT IF MY CHILD’S ABSENCES ARE A RESULT OF A CHRONIC MEDICAL CONDITION?

Schools can offer a variety of services, accommodations, and plans to support students with chronic medical conditions. These can include alternative learning experiences, attendance accommodations, and additional supports. Parents/guardians should contact the school nurse to complete a Chronic Illness form and ask about accommodation plans.

### WHO SHOULD I CONTACT ABOUT MY CHILD’S ATTENDANCE?

Parents/guardians should contact the School Attendance Office to report absences, ask about Attendance Forgiveness and AIS opportunities, and seek assistance with issues that impact student attendance.