

Can We Count You In?

Working Together to Show that Every Student Every Day Matters

September is Attendance Awareness month. A student missing just 2 days a month every month either excused or unexcused is chronically absent and at risk of academic failure and drop out of high school. Research shows that attendance in the first month can predict trends for the entire year. Children with high risk factors such as poverty, homelessness, frequent moves and chronic health issues can least afford to miss school. Our schools, families and community can work together to identify and overcome barriers to attendance as early as preschool.

Lackawanna County has joined the nationwide initiative to encourage school attendance. "Every Student Every Day NEPA" is a community wide initiative led by the Office of Youth and Family Services, the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties and local school district leaders with the goal of promoting positive connections to increase school attendance which leads to academic success. The campaign will include billboards sponsored by Lamar Advertising throughout the county, public service announcements with WNEP and a social media Twitter campaign #schooleverydayNEPA.

Everyone is encouraged to participate. There are many small things that can be done to promote daily attendance such as distributing parent flyers and/or creating incentives or contests in your school. See attached examples or go to www.attendanceworks.org. There will also be signs for our county schools to display. Please follow us on Twitter @ESEDNEPA.

Please join us to help every student attend school every day in Lackawanna County. We need your help to make this a successful community campaign. Let your voice be heard!

For more information contact any member of the Every Student Every Day NEPA committee.

- Office of Youth and Family Services; Debbie Marichak, Lou Strazzeri, Tammy Reiprich, Jennifer Carroll and Jessica Ferretti;
- Juvenile Probation Officer, Barbara Burge;
- United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties, Lisa Berardelli;
- Carbondale School District, Stephanie Miller;
- Fell Charter School, Mary Jo Walsh;
- Scranton School District, Meg Duffy and Fred Bresser;
- Abington Heights School District, Marc Wyandt