GOOD ATTENDANCE STARTS EARLY

BERKS KIDS ATTEND 180
Every day at school matters.

Who is Affected?

K and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time.

1 in 10 kids
in K *and* 1st grade are chronically absent

2 in 10 low-income kids
miss too much school and are more likely to suffer academically

2.5 in 10 homeless kids
are chronically absent

4 in 10 transient kids
miss too much school when families move

Why Does it Matter?

Missing school means missing out on opportunities to learn the fundamentals of reading and writing that kids use to learn other subjects. Chronic absence in both K *and* 1st grade has a negative effect on reading proficiency.

64% who have good attendance
can read on grade level after 3rd grade

17% who are chronically absent
can read on grade level after 3rd grade

20% Reading & Math
Kids who were chronically absent in K scored 20% lower in reading and math in later grades.

For information about chronic absenteeism, email **BISAba@comcast.net.** For help with chronic absenteeism, call **610-236-4847** or email **AdvancingSchoolAttendanceProgram@sam-inc.org.**

What Can We Do?

These are a few steps that communities and schools can take to address chronic absences:

Engage Families
Partner with, educate and engage families to improve student attendance and achievement.

Fix Transportation
Schools and communities can organize to ensure every child has safe and reliable transportation to and from school.

Address Health Needs
Many times, health concerns lead to absences in early grades. Work with medical professionals to give families advice and resources.

Track the Right Data
Too often only unexcused absences or average attendance is tracked. Attendance Works has free data-tracking tools. **Visit AttendanceWorks.org.**

Data from Attendance Works. Visit AttendanceWorks.org for resources to help you better understand, prevent and correct chronic absenteeism.

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Berks believes five absences or less leads to success.

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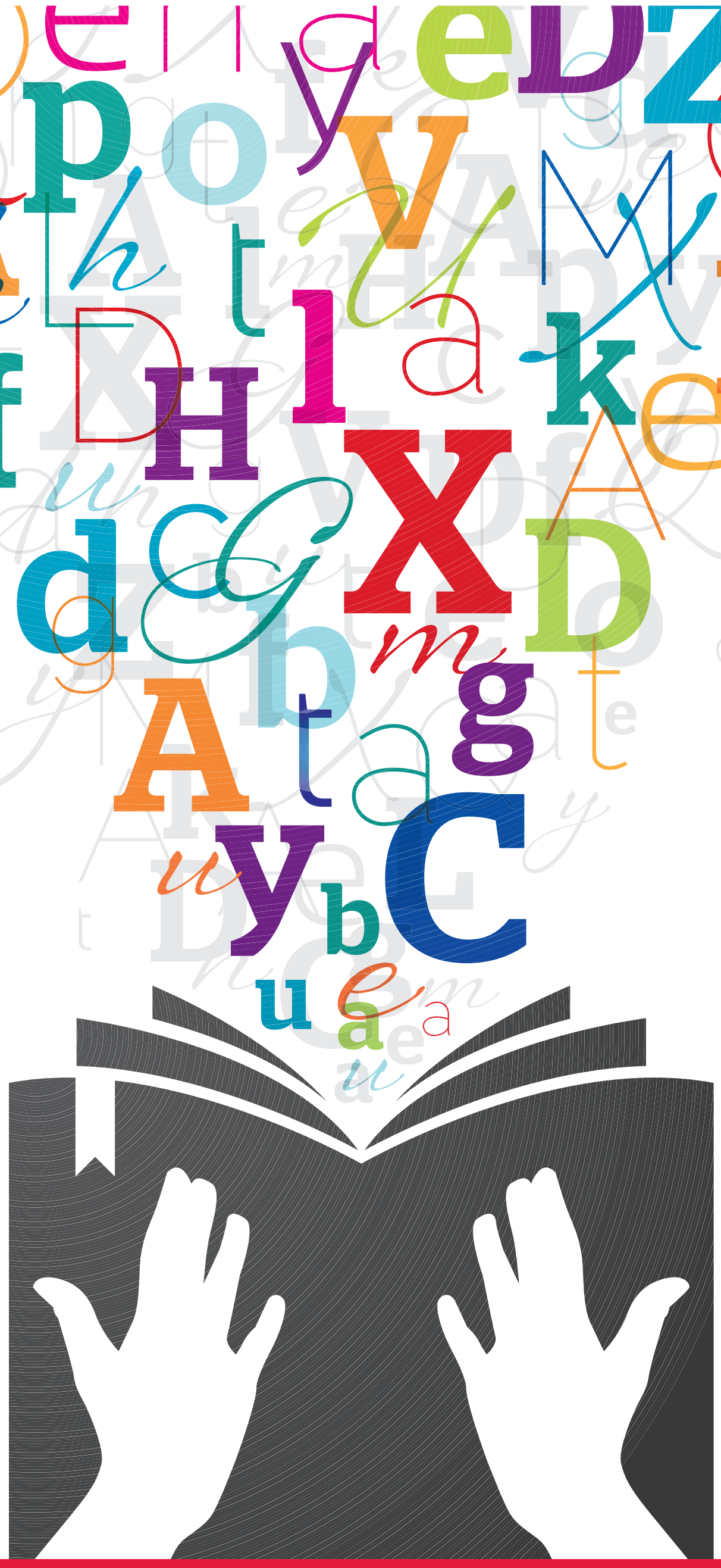

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