



San Ysidro School District

*Quality education and opportunity for all
students to succeed*

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Superintendent

April 11, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Importance of Regular School Attendance:

It's a fact that students who attend school regularly learn more and are more successful in school than students who do not. Parents who make regular school attendance a priority are also helping their children learn to accept responsibility, and that's an important lesson for a successful life. Attendance patterns are formed early in life. Children who develop good attendance habits in the early grades will be more likely to continue them throughout their school career, as well as into their chosen career. Regular attendance is critically important, because students who miss school miss out on carefully planned sequences of instruction. They miss out on active learning experiences and class participation. They miss out on the opportunity to ask questions. As a result, they are more likely to fall behind, and they are more likely to drop out.

- Absenteeism hurts the student. Students who are frequently absent fall behind in academics and miss important socialization concepts that enhance their ability to understand and follow directions or, ultimately, plan for the future.
- Absenteeism hurts other students. Students who are frequently absent require more individual attention from the teacher.
- Absenteeism hurts the school and district. State financial support for schools is directly linked to student attendance. When students are absent the school loses money. If absenteeism becomes chronic, important school programs and activities cannot be financially sustained and may be eliminated, which ultimately hurts our students.

Moreover, California's compulsory education laws require children between six and eighteen years of age to attend school, with a limited number of specified exceptions. Under state law, a pupil who, without a valid excuse, is absent from school for three full days in one school year, or is tardy or absent for more than 30 minutes during the school day on three occasions in one school year, is considered truant. Once a student is designated a truant, state law requires schools, districts, counties, and courts to intervene to ensure that parents and pupils receive certain services to assist them in complying with attendance laws. When these various interventions fail—meaning parents or guardians still do not send a child to school or a student misses an unlawful amount of school—the matter is referred to the courts. Courts can then use penalties or other measures to seek compliance. Essentially, these various interventions exist to ensure that pupils remain in school and that a pattern is not established that could lead to their dropping out of school later in their educational career.

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Things you can do to help:

- Schedule doctor and dental appointments so that your child can attend at least part of each school day. This will allow your student to check in with the teacher(s) to turn in assignments as well as pick up new assignments for that day.
- Communicate the importance of regular school attendance to your child so they are hearing the same thing we are saying at school.
- Provide a quiet place for your student to do homework and check in on him/her. Many students that do not get homework completed may say they are ill so they do not have to attend school.
- Make sure students are regularly eating nutritious meals and drinking plenty of fluids.
- If your student does miss school, please contact the office alerting them to the reason for the absence. A written note works best for this process.
- Remind students of proper hand washing/sanitizing techniques.
- If your student is running a fever of 100 degrees or more, vomiting, having diarrhea they need to be kept home.

When we all work together, as a team, we can make regular attendance at school a priority!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julio Fonseca', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Julio Fonseca, Ed.D.
Superintendent