

**ATTENDANCE INFORMATION FOR  
PARENTS**

**Every Day Counts**

*Child Welfare and Attendance*

# OBJECTIVES

- Laws for school attendance
- Acceptable reasons for absences
- Research & Data
- Student attendance takes a “village”
- Ideas for Improving Attendance
- Penalties for non school attendance

# LAWS FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



## **EC 48200 - Compulsory Education**

A pupil between the ages of 6 and 18 shall attend school for the full time designated as the length of the school day as determined by the governing board

## **EC 60901 (c)(1) Chronic Absentee**

A pupil who absent on 10 percent or more of the school days in the school year when the total number of days the pupil is absent is divided by the total number of days the pupil is enrolled (2 days or more a month)

## **EC 48260 (a) Truant**

A truant is any pupil between the ages of 6 and 18 who is absent from school without a valid excuse 3 days in 1 school year or tardy or absent for more than a 30-minute period during the school day without a valid excuse on three occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof

# WHEN TO KEEP CHILD FROM CLASS

1. Don't let your child stay home from school unless they are truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to not attend. Also, the child has ability to make up class assignments to receive credit.
2. If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make them feel comfortable and excited about learning.
3. Avoid medical appointments (yours or child's) and extended trips when school is in session.
4. Stay in communication with school personnel and/or teachers.
5. If medical reasons, Dr.'s note must be submitted to attendance office.

# RESEARCH & DATA

Chronically absent students (2 or more days a month) in Kinder and 1<sup>st</sup> grade are much less likely to read proficiently in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. (K-3 students are learning to read; 3 grade and up are reading to learn)

Chronically absent (2 or more days a month) 6<sup>th</sup> graders are less likely to graduate from high school.

9<sup>th</sup> grade attendance can be a stronger predictor of graduation than 8<sup>th</sup> grade test scores

# ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

## GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



### ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

read well by the end of third grade



### MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

pass important courses



### HIGH SCHOOLERS

stay on track for graduation



### COLLEGE STUDENTS

earn their degrees



### WORKERS

succeed in their jobs

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.

# STUDENT ATTENDANCE TAKES A “VILLAGE”

**Community**



**Student**

**Parents**

**School**

# IDEAS FOR IMPROVING ATTENDANCE

- 1. PARENT ENGAGEMENT/BE A VOICE FOR YOUR CHILD**
  - a) Meet with school staff
  - b) Volunteer in classroom or school and be engaged with child's work
  - c) Know what is going on at your child's school
- 2. HAVE A PLAN FOR THE DAY**
  - a) Have clothes prepared the night before, meals and snacks ready
  - b) Set and keep regular bedtime hours (6-13 years recommended 9-11 hours)  
(14-17 years recommended 8-10 hours)
  - c) Have child use an alarm clock
- 3. BE FAIR AND FIRM**
  - a) Focus on one thing at a time to make a change for the better
  - b) Reiterate importance of being at school every day
  - c) Give constant praises about going to school everyday and being on time

# PENALTIES FOR NON SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Parents:

Citation ---Education Code 48291/48293

- \$100 - \$500 fine
- Court ordered to attend parent education and counseling program
- Court ordered to drop off student daily.

*District Attorney may file charges against parents/guardians under*

PC 270.1 Failure to Reasonably Supervise and Encourage School Attendance or

PC 272 Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor

- Maximum Fine \$2500
- Up to 1-year county jail per truant student
- Up to 5 years probation with terms and conditions
- Failure to comply with the court order may result in additional jail time



# CONTACT INFORMATION

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