



WESTERN PLACER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Board of Trustees: Damian Armitage
Criste Freymond
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Superintendent: Kerry Callahan

RE: ATTENDANCE

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child's education is extremely important to all of us. We know that you recognize the importance of developing strong attendance habits and that you value your child's education as one of the critical building blocks to ensuring his/her successful future. We likewise value your child's education, and wish to do everything that we can to ensure that your child is successful for the coming school year.

Western Placer Unified School District has an admirable attendance rate – 95.5%. However, hidden within that positive bit of information is the fact that some of our students are not attending school regularly. When a student misses more than 9 – 10 days a school year, s/he is considered to be chronically absent. When a student is absent, s/he misses the instruction that is taking place and is at risk of having incomplete areas of learning. A tardy of more than 30 minutes is considered an absence.

In addition to the impact of absences on student learning, there is also a fiscal impact. Last year, our district lost over \$1 million in state funding due to student absences. This is funding that cannot be made up. Whether a student is absent for illness, vacation, family business or other reason, the state does not reimburse the district for the cost of educating that student for that day of absence.

We understand that illness and mishaps do occur and that there are days that a student cannot and should not attend school. However, we are asking our families to make every effort this year to have your children at school whenever possible. We encourage you to schedule family vacations and special events on non-school days to prevent absences from occurring. If your child has a chronic health problem, please make sure to contact your building principal and ask to communicate with one of our District Nurses to develop a Health Plan. **We will again be communicating with families this year when a child reaches the point of having 5, 10 and 14 excused absences for illness, to highlight the importance of regular school attendance. (This includes tardies of greater than 30 minutes.)** We will also be enforcing Education Code 48260 requirements regarding unexcused absences and truancy. (See additional SARB letter enclosed). A student who is absent from school without a valid excuse for three days or tardy in excess of thirty minutes or more on three or more days in one school year is considered to be truant. Such a situation would activate the Placer County Office of Education and WPUSD School Attendance Review Board (SARB) processes.

Thank you for your support of your child's education. We look forward to our continued partnership of providing the best education possible to your child.

Most sincerely,

Scott Pickett
Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services