



Adelanto Elementary School District

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September 10, 2020

Dear Parents,

Wow! September is already here and it is the month for Attendance Awareness. As parents, you are an essential partner in promoting good attendance which is important because students are more likely to have success in academics when they have consistent attendance. High numbers of absences in early grades, K-3rd, correlate with reading difficulties and poor attendance patterns in later years; specifically only 17% of students who were chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade were reading proficiently by third grade compared to 64% of students with good attendance (*Applied Survey Research, 2014*). You are the bottom-line in making sure your student is prepared and participating in distance learning each day.

Under the new requirements for distance learning, there are also new requirements for attendance and student participation that went into effect on September 1, 2020 (SB 98).

- Students are required to participate in **daily live interaction with their teachers and peers** for the purposes of instruction, progress monitoring and school connectedness (EC 43503(b)).
- **A student that does not participate with in-person or asynchronous instruction shall be deemed absent (EC 43504).** Participation is defined as participating in online activities, completing regular assignments and assessments, and/or parent or student contacting the teacher for help with assignments

To meet the new requirements, the Adelanto Elementary School District has implemented new **Attendance Procedures** for the 2020-2021 school year. Teachers will take attendance during synchronous instruction, as the primary attendance. For students marked absent, teachers will use attendance during asynchronous learning time as a second opportunity for students to receive attendance credit for the day.

- If a student is present on Zoom but is not participating (ex: sleeping, the camera is off, the student is lying in bed and under the covers not doing the work, etc.), the student may be marked **absent**.
- Any student marked absent may receive asynchronous (independent work) attendance credit on the **same day** if they complete the asynchronous assignments within the timeframe specified by the teacher. If the student is able to do this, the teacher will remove the "Absent" marked for the day and change it to "Asynchronous" attendance credit for the day.
- Issues with Zoom can be verified through the Zoom Attendance Record. If your student is disconnected, it is important for your student to reconnect. However, other technical issues must be reported to the school immediately so that we can assist you. Absences for technical reasons will be excused.
- The District has a tiered Re-engagement Plan for students missing 60% or more his/her instructional time. Tier I interventions are provided by the school site and if they are not successful, the Student Services team will offer support in Tiers II and III.

As a Tier II support, the District is also preparing for *Operation You Matter* Attendance Recovery Days on Tuesday, September 22 and Thursday, October 1. During *Operation You Matter*, District Teams will deploy to neighborhoods with high rates of absenteeism to conduct home visits and talk to students and parents about the barriers to attendance. If we can be of assistance in removing the barriers for your child's absences to get them to start attending regularly prior to the attendance recovery days, please contact your child's principal or the Student Services Department at (760) 246-8691 ext. 10656.

These requirements are intended to insure that your student is able to maximize his/her learning during Zoom and during the distance learning experience. Please review these requirements with your student. If you have additional questions, please contact your site administrator or the District's Student Services Department.

Sincerely,

Beth Bartholomew

Director, Student Services