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Dr. Laurie W. Newell
District Superintendent

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to you today about an issue that is critical to the success of our students: school attendance. Regular attendance is essential for students to master the concepts being taught in class, and frequent absences make it difficult for them to keep up with their peers.

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing more than 10% of the days a student is enrolled. This means that even one absence early in the school year can put a student in this category. For example, if a student attends school on the first day but is absent on the second day, they are already considered chronically absent because they have missed 50% of their enrolled days. Unfortunately, at EWK, 52% of our students are currently classified as chronically absent, making our school's attendance rate the second worst in the city of Paterson. This is a serious issue that affects student learning, overall school performance, and future academic success.

Attendance is not just a school matter—it is also a legal requirement. The City of Paterson and the Board of Education have the authority to take legal action against parents and guardians who fail to ensure their child attends school. If absences are not accompanied by the proper medical documentation, families may be taken to court and could face fines.

To address this growing concern, we will be forming an Attendance Committee at EWK, which will include attendance mentors to support families in getting their children to school on time every day. We will be reaching out to parents who need assistance, and we ask that you work with us to ensure that your child attends school regularly.

Your child's education and future depend on consistent attendance. Please make sure they arrive at school on time every day and communicate with us if challenges arise. Together, we can improve attendance and provide all students with the education they deserve.

If you have any questions or need support, please contact the school office. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to your child's success.