# Attendance

November 30, 2021

# Agenda

I. Attendance Teams
II. Terminology Review
III. Attendance Practices
IV. COVID-19 Related Absences
V. Benefits of Consistent Attendance
VI. Questions?

# Attendance Teams

District Office, Student Services Department

- Shauna Ashmore, Director
- Amber Bowman, Coordinator
- Dr. Lisa Miller, Assistant Superintendent

School Sites

- Elementary Principal, Attendance Clerk, Counselor/Other Support Staff
- Middle School Assistant Principal, Attendance Clerk, Counselor/Other Support Staff
- High School Assistant Principal of Attendance, Attendance Clerk, Counselor/Other Support Staff

# Terminology Review

- **Attendance**: a student is present at school
- **Tardy**: a student that arrives late or after the start of school
- **Absent**: a student that is not present in school
- **Verified Unexcused**: a student that was not present to class and although an explanation was given, the school is unable to excuse the absence
- **Excused Absence**: a student was absent to class with an acceptable explanation
- **Truant**: a student who is absent without an explanation
- **School Attendance Review Board (SARB)**: a team of community members that work with the family to solve issues related to attendance

# Truancy/Absence

- All children are legally required to attend school
  - Ages 6-18 or until HS diploma, certificate of completion or GED earned
- Contacted Unexcused or Truant
  - Contacted Unexcused= a student that was not present in school and although an explanation was given, the school does not excuse the absence
  - Truant = a student who is absent without an explanation
- 3 or more truant or unexcused absences = truancy letter sent to parents
  - Mailed to home address
- 2 truancy letters = parents and school meet to:
  - Identify strategies/help so the student attends
- 3 truancy letters = parents, school, district, and community members meet to:
  - Identify strategies/help so the student attends

# Absences

**Excused Absences per Education Code 48205**

- Personal illness (includes mental or behavioral health)
- Quarantine under the direction of a health officer
- Personal medical, dental, optometric or chiropractic appointment
- Funeral services for a member of the immediate family (limited to one day in the state, and three days out of state)
- Student serving on jury duty
- Personal court appearance (requires verification)

# COVID-19 Related Absences

Assembly Bill 130 (AB130) has provided school districts guidance on offering Short Term Independent Study (STIS) in response to COVID-19 related reasons for absence:

- COVID-19 positive case
- Confirmed close contact at school, home or community
- Experiencing COVID-19 symptoms

STIS Guidelines:

- Can range from 3-14 days total within the school year
- Requires a contract to be signed by the parent/guardian, teacher and administrator
- Attendance be marked Short Term Independent Study Complete or Short Term Independent Study Incomplete, based on student work submission

# Benefits of Consistent School Attendance

- School success goes hand in hand with good attendance
- Enables students to establish relationships with peers and positive rapport with teachers and other adults on campus.
- Starting in kindergarten, missing 10% of school (or just 2 days every month) can make it harder to learn and cause children to fall behind
- Good attendance, whether class is held in person or remotely, can help children do well in school, and eventually in college and/or the workplace



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# What families can do



**Find out what day school starts** and make sure your child has the required shots.

**Build regular routines** for bed time and the morning.

**Talk about the importance of regular attendance** and about how your child feels about school.



**Don't permit missing school** unless your child is truly sick. Use a thermometer to check for a fever. Remember that stomach aches and headaches may be signs of anxiety.



**Avoid medical appointments and extended trips** when school is in session.

**Keep a chart** recording your child's attendance at home. At the end of the week, talk with your child about what you see.




**Develop back up plans** for getting to school if something comes up. Ask a family member, neighbor or another parent for help

**Seek support** from school staff or community groups to help with transportation, health problems, or no safe path to school.

# Lo que las familias pueden hacer



**Averigüe que día empieza la escuela y** asegúrese que su hijo tiene las vacunas requeridas.

**Establezca rutinas diarias** para la hora de dormir y la mañana.

**Hable sobre la importancia de asistir a la escuela con regularidad** y preguntele a su hijo como se siente sobre la escuela.



**No permita que su hijo falte a la escuela** a menos que esté realmente enfermo. Use un termómetro para comprobar que tiene fiebre. Recuerde que los dolores de estómago y dolores de cabeza pueden ser signos de ansiedad.



**Evite las citas médicas y viajes largos** durante el horario escolar.

**Lleve un registro** en casa de la asistencia de su hijo. Al final de la semana, háblele de lo que usted ve.




**Desarrolle planes de respaldo** para llegar a la escuela si surge algo. Pídale ayuda a un familiar, un vecino u otro padre.

**Busque el apoyo** de grupos de personal de la escuela o de la comunidad para ayudarse con el transporte, problemas de salud o camino no seguro a la escuela.

# Questions?

Please let us know if you have any questions.  Thank you for inviting us!



