Excelsior Charter Schools
Volume 2, Issue 2: Pg. 1
September 2026

Student Services News for Excelsior Families

EXCELSIOR TALON TIMES Newsletter

September is Attendance Awareness Month



EVERY DAY IS A STEP FORWARD!

September is National Attendance Awareness Month
Your Road to Success starts with showing up!

A new school year is a fresh opportunity to learn, grow, make connections, and work toward your goals. One of the simplest—and most important—ways students can stay on the road to success is by being at school and ready to learn each day.

Why Does Showing Up Matter?

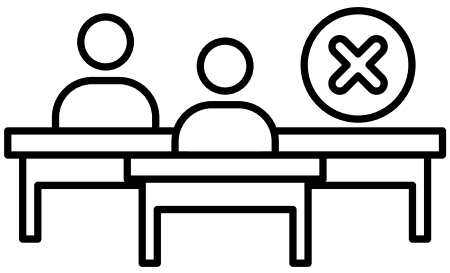
Every school day is an opportunity to:

- *Keep learning – Stay up to date with lessons, assignments, and projects.*
- *Stay connected – Build relationships with teachers, classmates, and your school community.*
- *Stay on track – Consistent attendance makes it easier to keep up with your goals.*
- *Take advantage of opportunities – Be there for activities, events, support, and experiences that happen throughout the school year.*

Families, You're Part of the Journey!

Families play an important role in helping students develop strong attendance habits. Creating a consistent morning routine, planning ahead, and talking with your student about the importance of being at school can make a big difference.

We know that sometimes students need to stay home because they are sick or circumstances arise. When that happens, staying connected with your school and helping your student get back on track can help prevent them from falling behind. For tips and suggestions see the attached flyer or visit AttendanceWorks.org



Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school year, or about 18 days in most school districts, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence.

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS STARTS TODAY!

One day at a time. One class at a time. One opportunity at a time.
EAGLES, let's make attendance a priority and start the school year strong!
Show up. Stay engaged. Keep moving forward.
Every Student. Every Day. On the Road to Success.

Student Services News for Excelsior Families

EXCELSIOR TALON TIMES

WELLNESS-NEST Newsletter



You Are Not Alone. Your Life Matters.

September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time to remind our students, families, and school community that asking for help is a sign of strength—not weakness.
High school can come with a lot of pressure: schoolwork, friendships, family situations, relationships, social media, and figuring out what comes next. Sometimes those challenges can feel overwhelming. No one should have to face those feelings alone.

Start the Conversation

If you notice a friend or family member struggling, don't be afraid to check in. A simple ***"Are you okay?"*** or ***"Do you want to talk?"*** can make a difference.

For students:

- Talk to a trusted adult, teacher, counselor, parent, or family member.
- Stay connected with people who make you feel supported.
- Give yourself permission to ask for help when things feel overwhelming.
- If you're worried about a friend, tell a trusted adult. You don't have to handle it alone.

For families:

- Make time to listen without immediately trying to solve the problem.
- Watch for changes in mood, behavior, friendships, sleep, or school engagement.
- Take statements about hopelessness, feeling like a burden, or wanting to die seriously.
- Let your student know that they can come to you —even when they don't know exactly what to say.

A Reminder for Everyone

You don't have to have everything figured out. ***You don't have to go through a difficult moment alone.*** And asking for help is okay. If you or someone you know is struggling or thinking about suicide,

call or text 988

to reach the *988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline*.
Support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. ***In an immediate emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department.***



Excelsior Charter Schools
Volume 2, Issue 2: Pg. 3
September 2026

Student Services News for Excelsior Families

EXCELSIOR TALON TIMES Newsletter

ECS - NEW PHELAN LOCATION

WE HAVE MOVED

Excelsior Charter Schools Celebrates the Opening of Its New Phelan Location!

Excelsior Charter Schools is proud to celebrate the opening of its new Phelan location! On Monday, August 24, students, families, staff, and community members gathered for a special Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening Celebration to mark this exciting milestone.

Located at 4022 Phelan Road in Phelan, this new location provides Excelsior students in grades 7–12 with a welcoming space designed to support learning, growth, and success.
During the celebration, guests had the opportunity to tour the new location, meet staff, learn more about Excelsior's educational programs, and enjoy refreshments and giveaways. The event also featured a special ribbon-cutting ceremony, officially marking the beginning of this exciting new chapter for Excelsior in the Phelan community.

Leadership in Phelan

Leading the Phelan location is ***Principal Mr. Steven Thompson***, who is excited to welcome students and families into this new space. With a commitment to creating a supportive and engaging learning environment, Mr. Thompson and his team look forward to helping Phelan students reach their academic goals and discover their path to success.

Supporting Every Student's Path to Success

The Phelan location offers Excelsior's fully accredited blended learning program and supported independent study, providing students with flexibility while maintaining access to the support and resources they need to reach their goals. Excelsior is committed to helping students prepare for college, careers, and lifelong success while providing educational opportunities that meet students where they are.

Growing Our Excelsior Community

The opening of the new Phelan location represents an exciting step forward for Excelsior Charter Schools and the families we serve.

As we welcome students and families into this new space, we look forward to building new relationships, creating new memories, and celebrating the accomplishments of our Phelan Eagles.

Welcome to your new home, Phelan Eagles!



Above: Phelan Campus Principal Mr. Steven Thompson cuts the ribbon during the grand opening celebration of Excelsior Charter Schools' new Phelan location. Joining him for the special occasion were Superintendent Dr. Derek King, members of the local Chamber of Commerce, and Excelsior staff and community members.
Photo credit: Caylee Cosbey

Student Services News for Excelsior Families

EXCELSIOR TALON TIMES Newsletter

First Day Back: A Great Start to the School Year!

All campuses were filled with excitement as Excelsior Charter Schools students returned for the first day of the 2026–2027 school year! From big smiles to familiar faces and new beginnings, our campuses were buzzing with energy as students and staff kicked off another exciting year together.

Thank you to our students, families, teachers, and staff for making the first day so special. We're looking forward to all the learning, memories, and accomplishments ahead!

Here's a look at some of our favorite moments from the first day of school!

























Student Services News for Excelsior Families

EXCELSIOR TALON TIMES Newsletter

unity meals

Unity Meals: A Delicious Start to the School Year!



The first two weeks of the 2026–2027 school year have been a great success for the Excelsior Charter Schools Nutrition Program, as the new menu options were rolled out by our new nutrition partner, Unity Meals. Students have been enjoying a variety of breakfast and lunch options, giving everyone something delicious to look forward to during the school day. Some of the breakfast favorites served during the first two weeks included a Double Chocolate Muffin and Mocha Crumble Cake. For lunch, students enjoyed flavorful favorites such as the BBQ Chicken Bowl and Orange Chicken Chow Mein.

The first two weeks with Unity Meals are showing strong early results in student meal participation! Based on MealTime reports for all campuses combined, the average number of breakfast and lunch meals served each day increased from 672 meals in May 2026 to 899 meals per day during the first two weeks of August 2026. That represents an impressive 33.8% increase in combined breakfast and lunch participation!

During the first two weeks of school, 7,192 breakfast and lunch meals were served across our campuses. Numbers are an exciting indicator of the positive response to our new nutrition program. We are grateful to our students for trying the new meals, sharing their feedback, and making mealtime a positive part of the school day.

Here's to a delicious and successful start to the school year!

Want to see what's being served at Excelsior? Monthly breakfast and lunch menus are available on our website. Visit www.excelsior.com and select Resources → Breakfast & Lunch Menus to view the current menu. Families can also learn more about our nutrition partner, Unity Meals, by visiting unitymeals.com to explore their meals program and learn more about the meals being served to our students.



FRIDAYS JUST GOT TASTIER AT ECS!

We're excited to kick off Pizza Fridays, giving students something delicious to look forward to as they wrap up the week. Students can enjoy free Domino's pizza, with one slice provided to each student.

Pizza Fridays are provided by Unity Meals and are a great way to end the school week with a tasty lunch and plenty of smiles!

Please note: Pizza Fridays are currently available at participating campuses and do not include the Phelan Campus at this time. Unity Meals is working to secure a pizza vendor for our Phelan students.

Student Services News for Excelsior Families

EXCELSIOR TALON TIMES Newsletter

FREE TRANSPORTATION FOR ECS STUDENTS

We are excited to offer free bus transportation to North Victorville students, with four bus routes and up to 10 stops throughout the community. Transportation is subject to availability, and families **must** complete the ***Bus Authorization & Code of Conduct form*** to participate. For additional details or questions regarding bus transportation, please contact the North Victorville Campus Front Office at 760-245-4448.

At our remaining campuses, transportation is not provided directly by Excelsior Charter Schools. However, students may take advantage of free public transit services offered by the *Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTA), San Bernardino County Omnitrans, and the Riverside County Corona Cruiser.* **Students must present their current Excelsior School ID to ride for free.** For current bus routes, schedules, and service information, please contact the appropriate transit authority serving your area.



*Victor Valley Transit Authority
760-948-3030
vvta.org

SBC - Omnitrans
1-800-966-6428
omintrans.org

Corona Cruiser
951-734-3418
coronaca.gov

*Routes which connects the High Desert with down-the-hill routes, is not included in the free-ride program.
*Micro-link zones are not included for free but are currently available for students at an additional charge.

New Venue for Graduation 2027!

SENIOR NEWS!

Excelsior is excited to announce that Graduation 2027 will be held indoors at **The Ontario Convention Center!** After two wonderful years celebrating at the VVC Event Center, we are thrilled to move to a beautiful venue that offers our graduates and families greater space, comfort, and capacity as our Excelsior community continues to grow.

Save the Date: Tuesday, May 25, 2027

Important details, including Eventbrite ticketing, parking, and guest ticket information, are still being finalized. More information will be shared in the coming weeks as details are confirmed.

We can't wait to celebrate our Class of 2027 and make this graduation an unforgettable experience for our graduates, families, and staff!

Sample Pictures from Platt College Graduation Ceremony at Ontario Convention Center:



