



English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) University City HS

Task: importance of regular
school attendance





Agenda

- Welcome
- Approving Minutes of previous meeting Nov 3
- ELAC Legal Task : ***Ways to make parents aware of the importance of regular school attendance***
 1. Training
 2. Discussion & site data analysis
 3. Advise Principal
- DELAC Report
- Round Table
- Closure



Welcome & Introductions



Approve minutes of previous meeting November 3, 2022



CA Education Code, section 48200

- In CA, every child between the ages of 6 and 18, is required to attend school.
- Every parent or guardian of a child ages 6-18 is legally mandated to ensure that his or her child attends school.



The Link Between Absenteeism and Dropout Rates

Chronic absenteeism is one of the strongest predictors of dropping out, even more than suspensions and test scores.



Impact on Public Safety

Truant students are more likely to:

- Have substance abuse problems
- Have a higher risk of joblessness, homelessness, and poverty
- Be victims of crime
- Have more social and emotional problems
- Have more contacts with law enforcement



Impact on Public Safety

In addition, truancy is the single most powerful predictor of juvenile delinquent behavior

- 82% of prisoners in America are high school dropouts*
- 98% of adult inmates started as truants in their youth

*National Dropout Prevention Center



Economic Cost of School Dropouts

- Dropouts vs. Graduates
 - 2.5 times more likely to be on welfare
 - Earn \$143/week less
 - College graduates in CA earn an average of \$1,000,000 more than dropouts over a lifetime



Lost Funding Due to Absenteeism

In one school year San Diego Unified district lost approximately:

- a) **\$5** Million
- b) **\$14** Million
- c) **\$23** Million
- d) **\$27** Million

Lost Funding (cont.)

- San Diego Unified Lost Approx. **\$23 Million**
- San Diego County Lost Approx. **\$94.9 Million**
- Approximately **\$1.4 Billion** Lost By California School Districts Due To Student Absences in one year
- CASSAS (Core Academy; Supporting Student Achievement Success) on Saturday recovers these funds.

*2012-13 estimates



Excused vs. Unexcused Absences

Excused

- Personal Illness/
Medical Appointment
(after school is best)
- Bereavement
(attending funeral of an immediate family member)
- Court appearance
(if child's presence is required)
- Observance of a religious holiday

Unexcused = Anything Else

- Family Vacation
- "Don't feel good"
- Babysitting
- Transportation

*Absences must be reported within 5 days or they will be unexcused



***Caution: Even excused absences contribute to chronic absenteeism!**

How University City HS makes parents aware of the importance of school attendance

01

Caregivers are called when a student misses a class

02

Dean of Attendance reviews data and discusses with attendance team in bi-weekly meetings

03

Cargivers and studnets receive noticifcation when unexcused absences and tardies occur

04

Teachers lower citizenship grades when excessive unexcused absences and tardies occur

What Can Parents Do?

- Spread the message that school attendance is important, and it's the law.
- Be informed about legal obligations and the benefits of an education.
- Let your children know that attending school is their "job" until they graduate -- Employers look for responsible employees and that starts with good attendance.
- Communicate with the school. Do not let a language barrier stand in the way of your child's academic success. Always call the school when your child will be absent.



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Share topics
discussed
during the
previous DELAC
meeting.

DELAC Report



Thank you!

Next Meeting:
February 23,
2023 8am

Closure

