



## STUDENT SUCCESS BEGINS WITH ATTENDANCE!

Please help improve student attendance by taking a positive approach to assist in establishing positive attendance patterns and avoid chronic truancy.

### **FACT:**

*Hard Truancies almost always begin with a pattern of Soft Truancies that is not corrected.*

## A Message to Alderwood Parents and Students:

The youth of Orange County are our most precious resource. In order for each individual to reach his/her highest potential, education should be a top priority. Your child's focus begins at home and parents need to understand why it is important for their children to be at school, on time, and throughout the entire scheduled day.

### **School Attendance Laws and Parent/Student Responsibilities:**

- All persons 6 through 18 years of age are required by California State Law to attend school. Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure their child's attendance. (Education Code Section 48200)
- A pupil is considered truant if he/she is absent for more than 3 full days in one school year without a valid excuse; tardy or absent for more than a 30-minute period during the school day without valid excuse on 3 occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof. (Education Code Section 48260)
- A pupil who is absent from school without a valid excuse for ten percent or more of the school days in one school year, from the date of enrollment to the current date, is deemed a chronic truant. (Education Code Section 48263.6)
- A student's refusal to attend school regularly can result in a referral to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB); to Juvenile Probation or the Juvenile Court System. (Education Code Section 48260)
- Parents who fail to compel their child's attendance may face criminal prosecution and penalties. (Education Code Section 48291)
- Any pupil who has once been reported as a truant and who is again absent from school without a valid excuse one or more days, or tardy on one or more days, shall again be reported as a truant to the attendance supervisor or the superintendent of the district. (Education Code Section 48261)
- If any minor pupil in any district of a county is a habitual truant, or is irregular in attendance at school, as defined in this article, or is habitually insubordinate or disorderly during attendance at school, the pupil may be referred to a school attendance review board. (Education Code Section 48263)



## **WHAT IS SOFT TRUANCY?**

Soft Truancy is a negative pattern that often leads to direct violation of the Education Code of California.

Soft Truancy includes, but is not limited to:

- Bringing a child late to school (less than 30 minutes).
- Picking up your child early for family outings, vacations, frequent medical appointments or business, or even trying to avoid traffic.
- Excusing a student as ill more than 10 days without medical verification.
- Frequent excused absences.
- Keeping an older child home to baby-sit.
- Keeping an older child home to work.
- Irregular attendance.
- Taking vacation during school.

## **AVOID TRUANCY**



- Be on time every day.
- Stay in school all day.
- Have a specified area at home for all school materials.
- Parents should call the school office or send a note when a student is ill and provide a medical note whenever possible.
- Work hard and try hard.

## **AWARENESS TIPS**

- Be sure to always follow all District and Site Attendance Policies.
- Students need to understand that education should be their top priority.
- To get the best start in life, a child needs a good education.
- If your child does not go to school, he or she will fall behind other students.
- If your child is not in school, he or she can't get the grades needed to graduate.
- Young people who miss school are often victims or perpetrators of crimes.
- Tardies and leaving school early should be an exception, not a norm.