



Dear Parent/Legal Guardian:

We need your help to keep your child in school. When a child is absent he/she loses instructional time, which impairs his/her opportunities to learn, grow, and achieve both personal and academic success. We want your child to be successful in school.

You will continue to receive messages regarding your child's attendance through School Messenger for daily attendance issues, two-day truancy (2), five-day (5) truancy and ten-day (10) truancy. When a child reaches ten (10) unexcused absences he/she is considered an habitual truant:

NMSA 22.12.9 (A) states that (1) "habitual truant: means a student who has accumulated the equivalent of ten or more unexcused absences within a school year: and, (2) "student in need of early intervention" means a student who has accumulated five unexcused absence within a school year.

As a parent, your assistance with attendance compliance is critical. Remember that Compulsory School Attendance Law (NMSA section 22-12-1) and City Ordinance (11-10-1 et. Seq.) require that a student must attend school every day with no unexcused absences. Unexcused absences include the following:

- **Non-school sponsored activities or trips**
- **Family vacations outside of the normally scheduled school breaks**
- **Minor aches and pains (if your child has a minor ailment, please send him or her to school, and the school nurse will determine if he or she needs to be sent home)**

The following are reasons for an excused absence with the appropriate documentation:

- **Illness**
- **Limited family emergencies**
- **Medical, health or legal appointments**
- **Suspensions**
- **Religious commitment**
- **Deployment of a military parent**

Principals may request additional documentation for excessive excused absences. Also, schools may withdraw a student after ten (10) consecutive days of absence, but only after the school has exhausted its efforts to keep a student in school using a variety of interventions. Albuquerque Public Schools is committed to student success. Reducing truancy in school will improve a child's academic and personal success.

If your child begins to show a pattern of absences, then you may be contacted by the school and/or a District Attendance Office Advisor. They are your resources to help. Welcome the help. We want to be partners with you in your child's academic success now and future success as an adult.

Be our partners. Let's make it a great year!

Sincerely,

Principal/Administrator