



GLENDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Student Wellness Services
Dr. Ilin Magran
Director

Attendance Matters

August 2022,

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In California, students with poor attendance or behavior are dropping out of school in alarming numbers. For this reason, improving school attendance is a priority for the GUSD Board of Education. We need your help. Parents and guardians must understand their role in establishing a regular, on-time school attendance pattern.

According to the California Department of Education, a student is “chronically absent” from school when they have missed two or more days per month. It may not seem like a lot, but that adds up quickly. Over a ten-month school year

– that would be 20 days, a whole month of missed school. Two days each month can put your child’s education behind other students. Students in kindergarten and first grade who are chronically absent are less likely to learn to read by the end of third grade. By sixth grade, chronic absences increase student drop-out rates. By ninth grade, good attendance predicts graduation better than eighth-grade test scores. **Going to school regularly matters!**

Going to school on time every day also matters! Students are expected to be in their seats and prepared to do work for class at the beginning of the school day or period. Students tardy 30 minutes or more to class on three separate occasions equals a full day absence for attendance reporting (e.g., 3 tardies of 30 minutes or more = 1 absence).

Sometimes children get sick and need to stay home. Please inform your school site’s administration team if your child is struggling with health or mental health issues. When informing the school administration about your child’s health, the school can provide the proper tools and resources to support your child and ensure their success.

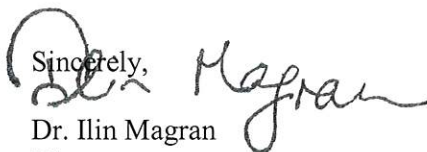
While many factors contribute to success in school, regular school attendance is critical to ensure that all students graduate. GUSD welcomes open and effective communication with parents and guardians, such as meetings with administration, teachers, and counselors and connecting through Parent Connect. Together let’s promote attendance awareness by engaging our students in recognizing why attendance matters through contests. Below is what the contests entail for each grade level:

Poster contest for elementary students
Video contest for middle and high school students

*The deadline to submit work is **September 23, 2022***

The Department of Student Wellness Services will recognize winners on September 30, 2022!

Your child’s education is important to us. Please refer to your school administration if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. They will be able to assist you with any attendance-related questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ilin Magran
Director