



## **Attendance Matters**

August 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In California students with poor attendance or behavior are dropping out from school in alarming numbers. Parents need to understand their role in establishing a pattern of regular school attendance. Glendale Unified School District welcomes open and effective communications, such as meetings with administration, teachers, counselors and connecting through parent connect.

A student is chronically absent from school when he or she has missed about two or more days per month. It may not seem like a lot, but that adds up quickly. Over a school year – that can be a whole month of missed school.

Sometimes children get sick. However, even two days each month can put your child's education behind – students in kindergarten and first grade are much less likely to learn to read by the end of third grade. By sixth grade, chronic absences lead to student drop-outs. By ninth grade, good attendance can predict graduation even better than eighth-grade test scores. Clearly, going to *school regularly matters!*

A student must be in their seat, workstation or assigned area and prepared to do work for class at the beginning of the period. If a student is tardy 30 minutes or more to class, on three separate occasions, the student will be recorded for a full day absence (e.g., 3 tardies of 30 minutes or more = 1 absence).

While there are many factors that contribute to success in school, regular school attendance and appropriate school behavior are required to ensure that all students graduate. We would like to help your family with any problems that may arise causing your child to miss school. Together we can find the most appropriate solution for each student and family. Your child's education is important to us.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please refer to your school administrator(s) for inquiries. They will be able to assist you with any attendance questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ilin Magran

Coordinator II, Student Support Services