

**San Dieguito Union High School District**  
**Business Services**  
***Student Attendance is Everyone's Responsibility***  
***Tips for Parents 2008-09***

**Background information:**

- July 1, 1998 –California changed the way schools receive state funding. The schools no longer receive funding for “excused” absences. Schools only receive money for students who are actually in class.
- The San Dieguito Union High School district expects to receive an estimated \$6,643 per student from the state for the 2007-08 school year. This means for that for every day you don't send your student to school, the district loses \$52.72.
- Actual attendance district-wide is about 95-96% of enrollment. By increasing student attendance district-wide by only 1%, district funding would increase by \$760,911.
- Senior Ditch Day – The district lost \$45,405 district-wide for Senior Ditch Day in one year alone!

**Compulsory Education Law:**

Requires students ages 6 – 18 years of age to attend school all day, therefore attendance is taken every period. In order for the district to receive funding, a student must attend at least one period.

- Legally Excused Absences (E.C. 48205)
  1. Personal illness or injury.
  2. Quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer.
  3. Medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic services rendered.
  4. Attendance at funeral services for a member of the immediate family.
  5. Jury duty or court ordered appearance.
  6. Exclusion for failure to present evidence of immunization.
  7. Observation of a holiday or ceremony of his/her religion.
  8. Appearance at SARB or SART hearing.
- **We do not get funding for *any* absences!**

**Attendance is Everyone's Responsibility. Here's how:**

**Parents and Students**

- Arrive to school and class on time.
- Notify attendance office of student's absence in a timely manner.
- Plan family vacations during non-school days.
- Try to schedule doctor appointments for your child after school hours.
- Allow your child to stay home only when he/she has a contagious illness or is too sick to be comfortable at school.
- Help prevent child illnesses from spreading at our school by getting your child vaccinated against flu and chicken pox.
- When your child has a doctor's appointment in the middle of the school day, bring him/her to school before the appointment. The district receives full funding if a student attends for part of the day.
  - ✓ Good attendance benefits your child's education. Every day a student misses school, he/she gets more than two days behind his/her peers, because he/she must make up missed learning and catch up with new learning at the same time.
  - ✓ Good attendance raises your child's chance to score well on tests.
  - ✓ Your child learns more about responsibility each day he/she attends school.

**School Staff**

- Take attendance every period.
- Notify parents of student absences.
- Follow-up on uncleared absences.
- Work with parents of students with “poor” attendance.
- Put together a team of appropriate staff members to assist student to improve attendance.