English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC)
University City HS

Task: importance of regular school attendance
Welcome
Approving Minutes of previous meeting Nov 3
ELAC Legal Task: Ways to make parents aware of the importance of regular school attendance
1. Training
2. Discussion & site data analysis
3. Advise Principal
DELAC Report
Round Table
Closure
Welcome & Introductions
Approve minutes of previous meeting
November 3, 2022
In CA, every child between the ages of 6 and 18, is required to attend school.

Every parent or guardian of a child ages 6-18 is legally mandated to ensure that his or her child attends school.
The Link Between Absenteeism and Dropout Rates

Chronic absenteeism is one of the strongest predictors of dropping out, even more than suspensions and test scores.
Impact on Public Safety

Truant students are more likely to:

○ Have substance abuse problems
○ Have a higher risk of joblessness, homelessness, and poverty
○ Be victims of crime
○ Have more social and emotional problems
○ Have more contacts with law enforcement
Impact on Public Safety

In addition, truancy is the single most powerful predictor of juvenile delinquent behavior

- 82% of prisoners in America are high school dropouts*
- 98% of adult inmates started as truants in their youth

*National Dropout Prevention Center
Economic Cost of School Dropouts

- Dropouts vs. Graduates
  - 2.5 times more likely to be on welfare
  - Earn $143/week less
  - College graduates in CA earn an average of $1,000,000 more than dropouts over a lifetime
Lost Funding Due to Absenteeism

In one school year San Diego Unified district lost approximately:

a) $5 Million  
b) $14 Million  
c) $23 Million  
d) $27 Million
Lost Funding (cont.)

- San Diego Unified Lost Approx. $23 Million
- San Diego County Lost Approx. $94.9 Million
- Approximately $1.4 Billion Lost By California School Districts Due To Student Absences in one year
- CASSAS (Core Academy; Supporting Student Achievement Success) on Saturday recovers these funds.

*2012-13 estimates
Excused vs. Unexcused Absences

**Excused**
- Personal Illness/ Medical Appointment  
  (after school is best)
- Bereavement  
  (attending funeral of an immediate family member)
- Court appearance  
  (if child's presence is required)
- Observance of a religious holiday

**Unexcused = Anything Else**
- Family Vacation
- “Don't feel good”
- Babysitting
- Transportation

*Absences must be reported within 5 days or they will be unexcused

*Caution: Even excused absences contribute to chronic absenteeism!
How University City HS makes parents aware of the importance of school attendance

01 Caregivers are called when a student misses a class

02 Dean of Attendance reviews data and discusses with attendance team in bi-weekly meetings

03 Caregivers and students receive notification when unexcused absences and tardies occur

04 Teachers lower citizenship grades when excessive unexcused absences and tardies occur
What Can Parents Do?

- Spread the message that school attendance is important, and it's the law.
- Be informed about legal obligations and the benefits of an education.
- Let your children know that attending school is their “job” until they graduate -- Employers look for responsible employees and that starts with good attendance.
- Communicate with the school. Do not let a language barrier stand in the way of your child's academic success. Always call the school when your child will be absent.
What advice or suggestions can the ELAC give to the principal to ensure students are attending school regularly?
Share topics discussed during the previous DELAC meeting.
Thank you!

Next Meeting: February 23, 2023 8am