

Make **YOUR CHILD'S** learning and education a priority

Why Attendance Matters

Being present at school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in Transitional Kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and become more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

Research shows:

- Poor attendance in preschool can predict absenteeism in later grades.
- Children chronically absent in Kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is a proven early warning sign for students at risk of dropping out of school.
- By 9th grade, good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8th grade test scores.

Strategies to Help Get Your Child to School

- Make sure your child keeps a regular bedtime and establishes a morning routine. Younger children need 9 to 11 hours of sleep, older children 8.5 to 9.5 hours.
- Lay out clothes and have child's backpack ready to go the night before.
- Ensure that your child goes to school every day unless he/she is truly sick (a temperature over 99.9 degrees).
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers, counselors and school administrators for advice if your child feels anxious about going to school.
- Develop back up plans for getting your child to school if something arises. Call a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact the office at your child's school or the District's Attendance Supervisor

San Mateo-Foster City School District,
1170 Chess Drive, Foster City, California
94404 T 650.312.7340
www.smfcsd.net

Attendance Matters



La versión en español está disponible en línea y en la oficina de su escuela



Revised September 2019

Chronic Absenteeism- Missing 10% or more of school days due to absences for any reason, including excused AND unexcused absences. A letter will be sent home to inform parents when a child has missed 9 days AND 10% of the school year.

Excessive Excused Absences



At the 3rd consecutive excused absence, families will need to provide medical documentation of illness. After the 7th excused absence, families will receive the first *Excessive Excused Absence Notification* letter.



At the 10th excused absence, families will receive a second letter. A parent meeting will be held with the Principal, Assistant Principal, and/or District Nurse, to discuss attendance strategies. Authorization for the release of medical records will be requested. Continued excused absences without medical documentation will be marked unexcused.



A child is considered a Chronic Absentee by the state of California (EC 60901 (c) (1)), when the child has missed 10% of the school year and continued absences may result in a Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) meeting.

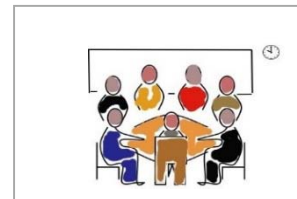
Unexcused Absences



At the 3rd unexcused absence, the first *Notification of Truancy* letter is sent. California Ed Code 48260(a) states: A pupil who is absent from school or tardy or absent for more than a 30 minute period without a valid excuse (see School Board Policy-Attendance), on 3 occasions shall be classified as Truant.



At the 6th unexcused absence, the second *Notification of Truancy* letter will be sent. At this step, a meeting will be held with the Principal, Assistant Principal, and/or Classroom Teacher to discuss attendance strategies.



At the 9th unexcused absence, a child is considered a Habitual Truant by the state of California [EC 60901(c)(1)], and continued unexcused absences will result in a Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) meeting.