



A t t e n d a n c e

S h o w i n g U p T o g e t h e r

District English Learners

Advisory Council

October 22, 2024



Today's Objectives

- Excused Absences
- Chronic Absenteeism & Truancy
- The GOAL
- Why Regular Attendance Matters
- State, CVUSD, EL, and Hispanic Chronic Absenteeism DATA
- Root Causes of Chronic Absenteeism
- When to Keep your Child Home
- **Solutions, Supports, and Successes**

Excused Absences

Education Code 48205 & CVUSD Administrative Regulation 5113

| | |
|--|---|
| Personal Illness – including mental health | Religious holiday or ceremony |
| Medical, dental, optometrical, or chiropractic appointment | Participation in cultural ceremony or event |
| Funeral service – 1 day in CA, 3 days outside CA | Participation in religious exercise or to receive moral and religious instruction |
| Grief services – up to three days | Attendance at religious retreat (1 day per semester) |
| Illness or medical appointments of student's child | Quarantine |
| Jury duty | Spending time with family member deploying or returning from active duty |

**C h r o n i c
A b s e n t e e i s m**

**Missing 10% of the school
days**

– 2 days per month –

over the course of a year

FOR ANY REASON

T r u a n c y


**Absences without a valid
excuse (per ED Code)**





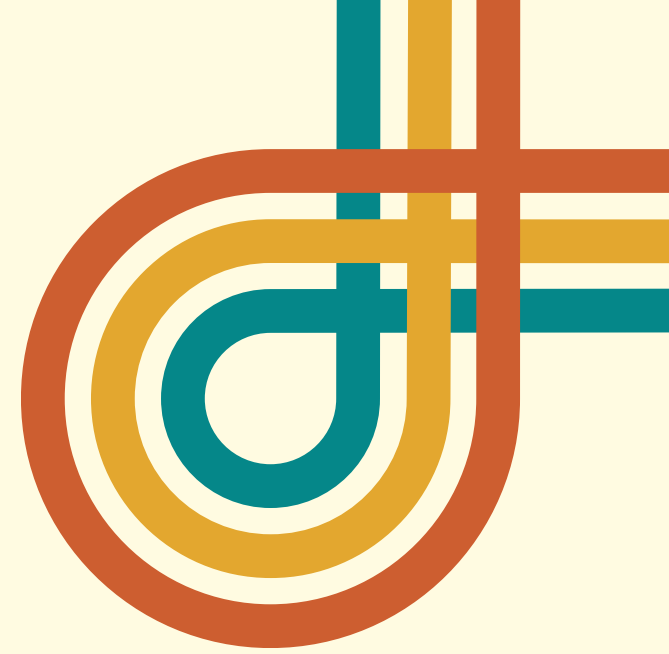
The Goal

Students should miss no more than 9 days of school per year to stay engaged, successful, and on track for graduation.

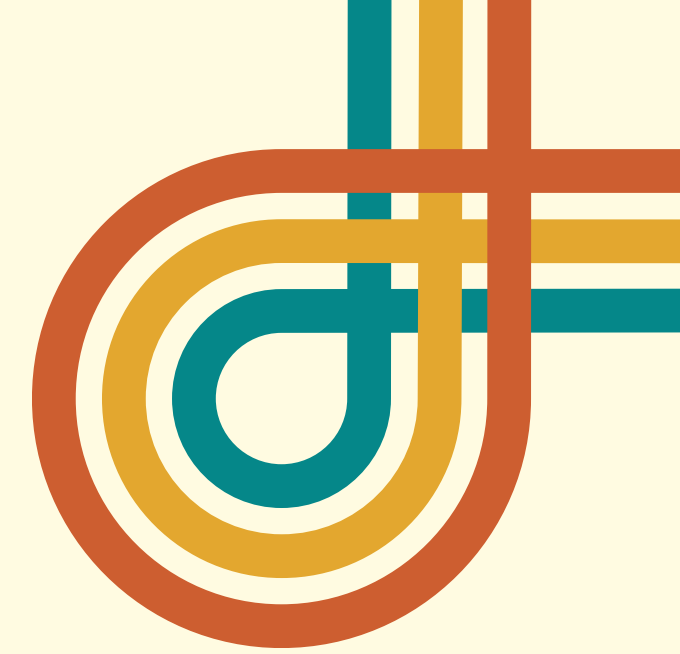


W h y A t t e n d a n c e M a t t e r s

- **Kids who aren't in school don't form RELATIONSHIPS**
- **If they don't form relationships, there are more behavior and discipline issues**
- **If they are not here, they will not be learning and they will struggle**
- **If they struggle, there may be increased behaviors.**



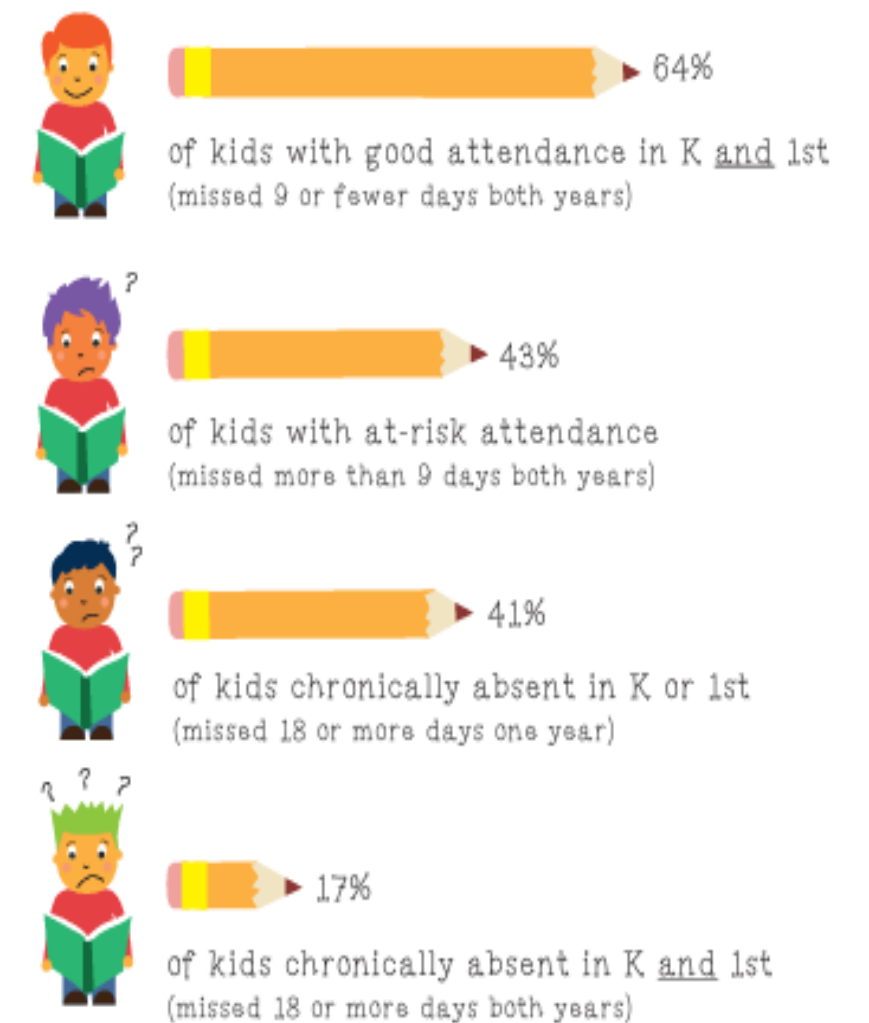
Why Attendance Matters in the Early Grades



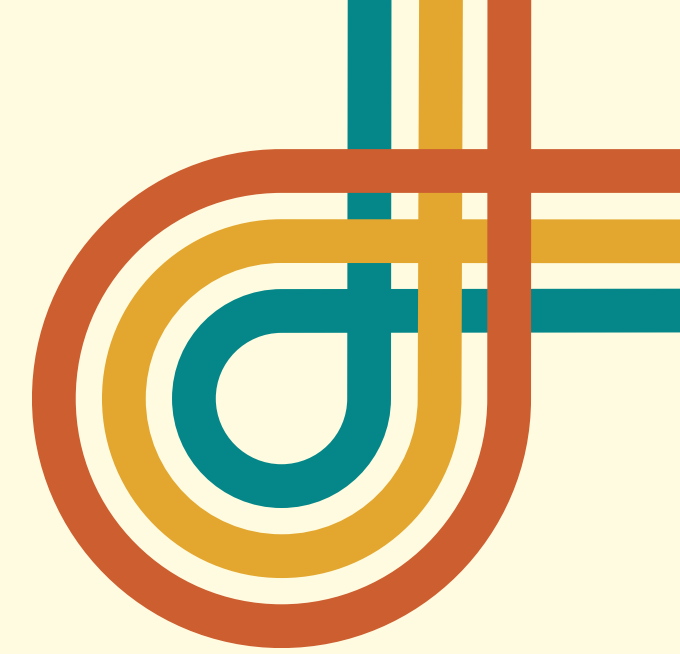
- **Showing up on time every day is important to your child's success!**
- **Missing just 1 to 2 days every few weeks can make it harder to**
 - Gain early reading and math skills
 - Build relationships
 - Develop good attendance habits
- **Children who are chronically absent in Kindergarten and 1st grade are far less likely to read proficiently in 3rd grade.**



Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?³



Why Attendance Matters in Middle & High School



- **By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.**
- **By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.**
- **Missing 10% - 2 days per month – can affect academic success.**
- **Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom.**





Chronic Absenteeism Rates

| Academic Year | State | CVUSD | CVUSD English Learners | CVUSD Hispanic |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 18-19 | 10.1% | 5.5% | 7.3% | 7.5% |
| 19-20 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 20-21 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 21-22 | 30% | 14.7% | 23.6% | 22.7% |
| 22-23 | 24.3% | 16.2% | 24.7% | 23.4% |
| 23-24 | | 12.4% | 21% | 18% |
| 24-25 | | 11% | 16% | 15% |

Root Causes

Barriers

- Chronic and acute illness
- Family responsibilities or home situation
- Trauma
- Poor transportation
- Housing and food insecurity
- Inequitable access to needed services

Aversion

- Struggling academically and/or behaviorally
- Unwelcoming school climate
- Social and peer challenges
- Anxiety
- Undiagnosed disability and/or disability accommodations
- Parents/caretakers had negative educational experiences

Disengagement

- Lack of challenging, culturally responsive instruction
- Bored
- No meaningful relationships to adults in school
- Lack of enrichment opportunities
- Lack of academic and behavioral support
- Failure to earn credits
- Work conflicts

Misconceptions

- Absences are only a problem if unexcused
- Missing 2 days per month doesn't affect learning
- Lose track and underestimate TOTAL absences
- Assume students must stay home for any symptom of illness
- Attendance only matters in upper grades
- Suspensions don't count as absence

Root Causes

COVID

- “Our relationship with school became optional.”
- Habit of daily attendance stopped when school went remote.
 - Relaxed grading, relaxed attendance policies, quarantines
- Students struggle more with mental health and heightened anxiety, opting to stay home.
- Teachers still post work online – families incorrectly think they are keeping up.
- Students stay home with routine illnesses.
- Learning loss – anxiety at returning to school.
- Normal human stress response – fight (verbal or physical aggressions) or flight (absenteeism).
- Increase of teacher and student absences – uncertainty about who will be there.

School Response

Legal Responsibilities

- Chronic Absentee Notification Letters sent monthly
- Excessive Illness Notification Letter – Dr. note required to excuse illnesses beyond 14 days
- SART – School Attendance Review Team
- SARB – School Attendance Review Board

Schools' Collaborative Response

- Recognize improved attendance
- Restorative discipline practices
- Student Study Team / Case Conference
- Family engagement
- Home visits
- Focus on empathy rather than punitive approach
- Community partnerships – referrals to health care, social services, and other supports
- Free meals for all
- Welcoming school culture
- Culturally relevant instruction
- Career and technical education
- Connect to extra curriculars
- Conejo Closet – necessities & school supplies
- Personal contacts
- Confirm contact information
- Mentoring and counseling – CRPD, BreakThrough, Wellness
- Student voice
- ELOP
- Safer walks to schools



Parents' Collaborative Response

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school on time every day
- Routines! Regular bedtime and morning routine - finish homework and get a good night's sleep!
- Try to schedule medical and dental appointments outside the school day.
- When children are home, contact school for options to keep up with work.
- Develop back up transportation plans.
- Talk to teachers and school counselors if your child is anxious about school.
- Encourage your child to join meaningful after-school activities, including sports and clubs.
- If you wonder whether you should seek help from the school, the answer is, "YES!"




W h e n t o K e e p Y o u r C h i l d H o m e

Follow CDPH Guidance!

[English](#)

[Spanish](#)





S u c c e s s e s



Intervention Counselor Newsletter

ATTENDANCE UPDATES
Conejo Families, We have completed our first month of school and I wanted to update you on our school attendance data. Please remember to contact the office to clear all absences within 3 days of absence. Office Phone - (805) 495-7058

FACTS

- Chronic Absenteeism means that your student is absent more than 2 times a month or 10% of the school year
- Your child's daily attendance in school is critical to success in school and in life.
- About 1 in 6 students struggle with attendance in the U.S.
- When students improve their attendance, they improve their learning.

ATTENDANCE DATA

| Grade | Absences | ADA |
|-------|----------|--------|
| TK | 28 | 95.67% |
| K | 32 | 96.36% |
| 1 | 29 | 97.00% |
| 2 | 34 | 95.68% |
| 3 | 34 | 96.38% |
| 4 | 30 | 94.84% |
| 5 | 32 | 96.47% |

STAY IN TOUCH
Mrs. Sabory M.S., P.P.S.
lsabory@conejousd.org
(805) 750-7407

NEXT WEEK
September is Attendance Awareness Month
A month designed to highlight the importance of consistent school attendance and the impact of chronic absenteeism on student success. The message that every day a student is in school is an opportunity to learn, build relationships and access support.



ATTENDANCE IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS!

From January 9th through February 29th, we are celebrating our winning grade levels with the highest % of on-time daily attendance!

WEEK 3
1ST PLACE: 1ST GRADE (88.6%)
2ND PLACE: KINDER (86.1%)
3RD PLACE: 5TH GRADE (86.0%)

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING GREAT HAPPENING AT ASPEN. DON'T MISS ANY OF IT!

Reminder
Please remember to call the school office (805 495-7058) or email Ms. Yohaira Lopez (ylopez@conejousd.org) if your child will be absent. If you must go out of town during the school year, please ask if your child qualifies to

Be Present. Be Powerful.
#AttendanceMatters

6 likes
letsgoconejo #AttendanceMatters Congratulations to our first round of students who came to school for 10 days, earning Game Time with Mrs. Sabory... more 6 days ago

5 likes
aspelementaryschool Congrats 1st graders! You're hanging onto your 1st place attendance success in the top 3 leaderboard! Will 5th and Kindergarten... more January 30

ATTENDANCE REMINDERS

Leaving Early?... Running Late?

- You MUST pick up your early dismissal slip from attendance. If you return before school ends, you must check in with attendance and get a 5-Star hall pass before returning to class.
- If you do not pick up your slip when you leave, you will be marked TRUANT & may be unable to make up work.
- If you are late, you MUST go to attendance to check in and get a 5-Star hall pass.
- If you don't check in with attendance, you will be marked TRUANT for the periods missed and may be unable to make up work.

General Information

- All absences must be cleared within 72 HOURS. If the absence is not cleared, you will be marked TRUANT and may be unable to make up work.
- THREE (3) Truancies in any class per semester will be a Saturday Work Study.
- THREE (3) Tardies in any class per semester will be an After School Detention.
- FIVE (5) Tardies in any class per semester will be a Saturday Work Study.

If you have excessive absences and tardies, you may be ineligible for activities (athletics, dances, senior activities, etc.)

If you get an attendance call/email, this means you have an unexcused absence and/or tardy.


- This call/email is your reminder to call to clear your absence and/or tardy.
- This call/email is your warning for consequences.
- 18-year-old students may make their own attendance calls; however, all attendance rules still apply.

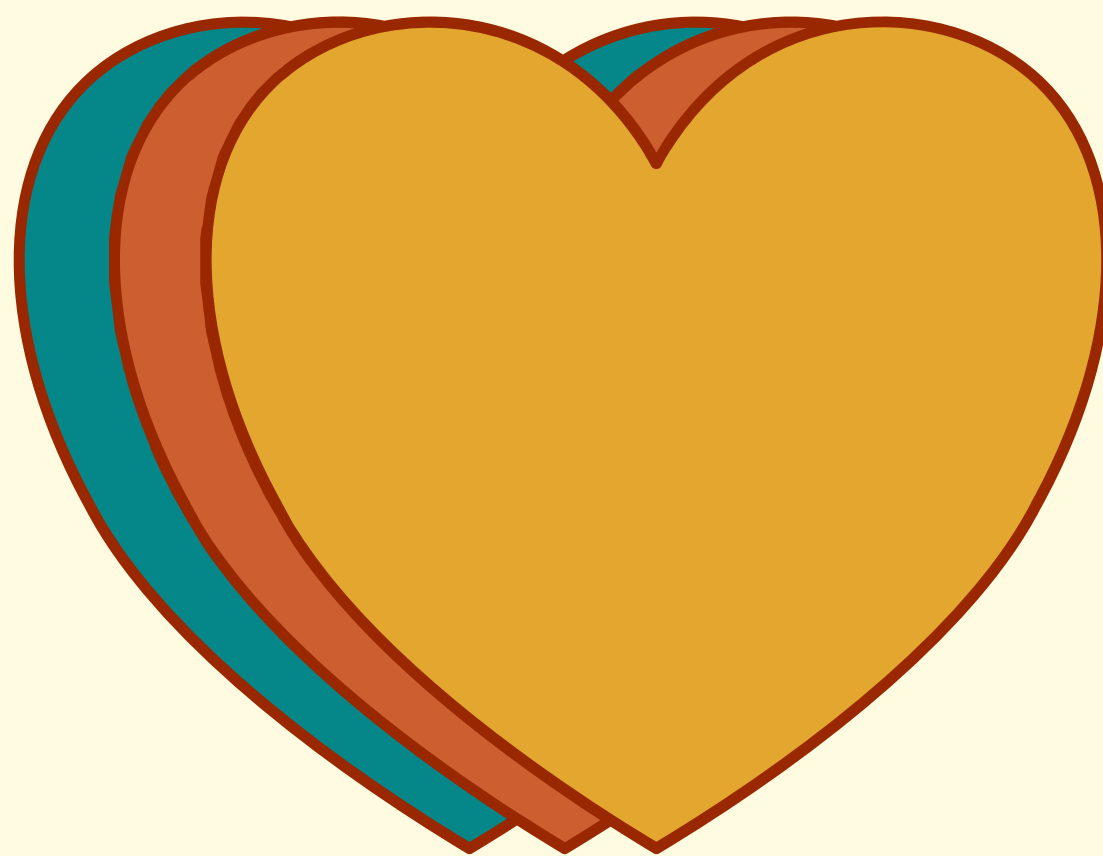
Attendance Questions, contact Mrs. Michaud at kmichaud@conejousd.org



The Goal

Students should miss no more than 9 days of school per year to stay engaged, successful, and on track for graduation.





T h a n k y o u !