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Dear Parent of Kindergarten/Transitional Kindergarten Student;

Is daily attendance in kindergarten really that important?

As you have already learned, kindergarten is no longer just finger painting. Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten (TK) serve as the basic foundation for students to learn important skills that will set the course toward academic success. California compulsory education law mandates that students attend school and parents are obligated to compel attendance.

National studies conducted across the U.S. and by the California Department of Education addressing chronic absenteeism show that children who are absent more than 10% of the time perform much more poorly in reading, math, and general subjects. Did you know that one in ten kindergarten and 1st grade students miss a month of school during the school year when all their absences are totaled? The result is that critical learning is missed.

Last year, the District-wide kindergarten attendance rate was 95.61%. However, it is the lowest percentage of **all** grade levels. The goal for every student at every school is an attendance rate of 97.5%. The District's nationally acclaimed Attendance Counts! campaign is focused on reaching out to parents of kindergarten and transitional kindergarten students with the message being the importance of daily school attendance. The increase over the previous school year's rate means increased learning and additional funds for students and school programs.

The State of California provides revenue to school districts based upon attendance. Student attendance is the primary source of funding for our schools. If your child is not in school, your school loses funding that day. The amount of revenue for each child for the entire year is \$39.33 a day, multiplied by the days of actual attendance within each school year. As you can see, in addition to the academic and developmental importance of daily school attendance, there is a direct connection between daily attendance and funding for our schools.

Educated graduates who can give back to the community are important to the future of the Chino Valley. Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center and Pomona Valley Health Centers recognize that and want our children to stay healthy, so they can be in school each day as they grow into the leaders of tomorrow.

I hope that this letter helps you to understand how important daily school attendance is for your child. Establishing good habits early will enable your child to have the best educational experience possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Ofelia Verdugo, Child Welfare and Attendance Coordinator, if we can be of assistance. You can reach us at 909.628.1201. And remember, Attendance Counts!

Respectfully,

Wayne M. Joseph
Superintendent

