

# **ATTENDANCE MATTERS!**

The most important thing you can do  
for your child's future is to establish  
good attendance.

Here's why...

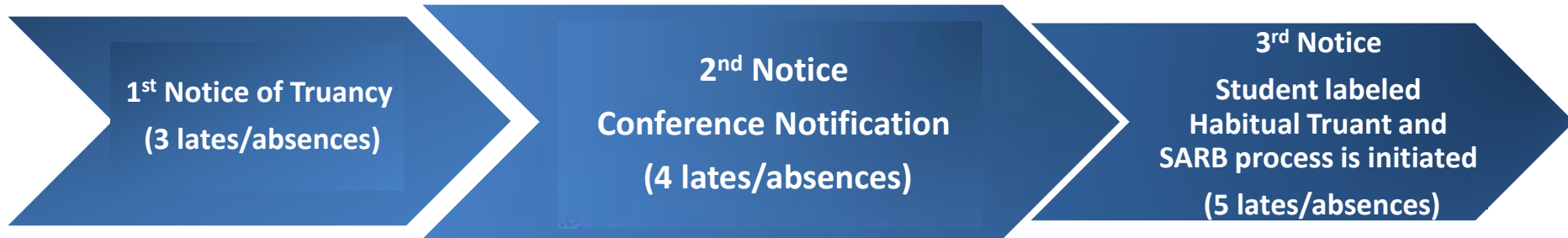
# Today's Agenda

- Discuss why we are here and why attendance matters
- Sign an Attendance Contract
- There will be time at the end to meet regarding your student individually

# Why You Were Invited Today

We know attendance is important for the success of your child.

We are concerned about your child.



# Did You Know?

- Good attendance is the # 1 factor your child being successful in school?
- Children who are absent two or more days each school month achieve 25 percent less than their fellow students.
- Regardless of your child's past attendance history, it is never too late to establish good attendance?



# Curriculum Built On 180 Days

To get the most out of school and maximize learning time and learning potential your child needs to be in school everyday.

Your child can make up an assignment but they can't recover what is most valuable: the questions, the activities, the explanations from the teacher and the interaction that brings *learning to life*.

*Attendance is directly linked to academic performance – better attendance = better performance!*

# What We Know From Research



- Attendance is directly linked to graduation rates and life-long work habits.
- Ninety percent of serious juvenile offenders begin as truants.
  - Truant is defined as missing more than 30 minutes of instruction without an excuse three times during the school year.
- The likelihood of dropping out of school skyrockets to 75% when your child misses 20% (35 days) of the school year.
- 75% of 20 year olds that don't have a diploma don't have a job or a job that can support themselves or a family.

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# An Example of the Research

A study of Los Angeles Unified School District found that students who were “chronically absent” (10% + of school year) in the 9th grade graduated at a rate of just 17 percent.

- That means 83 percent of those habitually absent 9th graders are likely to remain unemployed, to become mired in poverty, to struggle and to need social services -- for the rest of their lives.

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# What You Can Do (continued)

## 2. **Ask questions.**

1. Why are they missing school or late for class?
2. Are they struggling with homework? Is it a specific topic or several classes?
3. Is there conflict with another student?
4. Do they feel left out or like they don't fit in with others?
5. What can we do as a school/parent/student team to change this behavior?

*If we don't change our direction, we are likely to end up where we are going*



# What You Can Do (continued)

- 3. Remove obstacles that are preventing your child from being at school every day, on time**
  1. What is causing your student to be late?
  2. What can we change to ensure your student is not tempted to skip school?
  3. How can we ensure we are doing everything to get them back in class?

*Our top priority is always YOUR students success!*

# School Funding

- ✓ Public schools are primarily funded by the state.
- ✓ Funding is only paid for students when they are present at school. If they are absent (excused or unexcused) your school does not receive funding for that day. This is referred to as Actual Daily Attendance.
- ✓ This money is used for providing your child's education and preparing them for the future. This includes teachers and staffing, books, computers, additional classes and activities.



# Final Thoughts

- Your child needs to be at school every day to be successful & graduate.
- Avoid scheduling vacations and doctor appointments during school hours
- Don't accept or make excuses for why your child "must" miss or be late for school
- Support school rules and consequences for skipping class or being tardy
- Reach out for help if you need it.

Your student will thank you for this later!

# We Are Here For You!

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Child Welfare, Attendance, and Safety Department.

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Thank you for coming today! We look forward to partnering with you!