



# Sierra Unified is committed to your child, your family, and our community by tackling chronic absenteeism.

## What is Chronic Absenteeism?

Do you know the difference between being truant and being chronically absent? There are some common myths around chronic absenteeism. It is defined as any student that has missed 10% or more days of their school year, unexcused or not. This would be a total of 18 days, or 2 days per month. Please see the attached graphic that outlines the differences between chronic absenteeism and truancy.

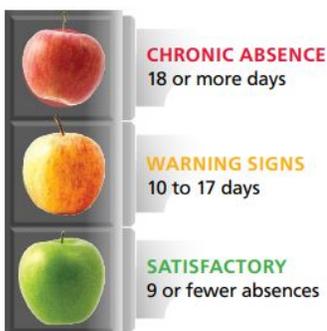


## Miss school and miss out!

You might ask, why do we care if a student is chronically absent? It all comes down to Sierra Unified wanting your child to be successful in mind, body and spirit. Here are some of effects of chronic absenteeism:

- **Academics:** every day a child misses school, they get farther behind in their learning, assignments, and grades. It is hard for students to “catch-up” once they have missed, while staying current with new assignments.
  - Missing assignments is the easiest way for a child to fail a class.
- **Social-emotional:** a crucial component of school is children making connections with teachers and friends. Relationships can be disrupted with every absence. Students often feel nervous or anxious when they have missed. There is an increase of mental health needs for students who are chronically absent.
- **College and Career Ready:** SUSD is committed to preparing students for life beyond high school. Part of this is building healthy habits and routines. Once students have a job or are attending college, they simply cannot miss excessive days or they will not be successful.

## When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

## We want to be your partner!

Parents are a child’s first teacher and Sierra Unified shares your goal of making sure your child has a successful educational experience and future. Our hope is to build a positive relationship with you to best support your child.

- ***If your child is missing school, how can we help?*** If there are any family barriers that are preventing your child from being at school, or your child does not want to attend school, please let us know. You can speak to a classroom teacher or the front office. We are committed to making sure school is a fun and welcoming environment for every student.

Together, we are stronger!