



September 13, 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students:

Welcome back to Escalon Unified School District (EUSD) students and families. The new school year began recently, and we hope everyone enjoyed the summer break. We believe every student will benefit from attending their classes and building positive pathways to success.

To ensure every students' success, EUSD would like you to be aware that the new school year brings with it a renewed discussion involving student attendance and truancy. EUSD continues its focus on truancy prevention in partnership with the San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office and you, the parent or guardian, of our amazing students. We join you in empowering our children to make school attendance a priority, ensuring a quality education for all. For many families, truancy never becomes an issue. However, it is important for all parents and guardians of children attending school to know and understand the consequences of continued and excessive unexcused absences and tardies.

A student who misses more than three (3) days within the school year without a valid excuse is a "truant," as defined by the Education Code. A "chronic absentee" is a student who misses more than ten (10) percent of the school year, from the date of enrollment to the current date. A student who is a chronic unexcused absentee will not only fall behind academically but is also at greater risk of dropping out of school and becoming involved with the juvenile justice system. No one wants to see this happen to any of our children.

We will continue our work to provide the services and resources necessary to prevent any of our students from becoming a chronic truant. Again, EUSD does not want any of these scenarios to present themselves, and we will work with you to avoid these severe consequences and to empower our children with the tools for success.

EUSD recognizes issues may arise which result in excessive absences and tardies. EUSD will work toward a resolution of any issues so your children will receive the valuable education they deserve.

We look forward to a happy, healthy, and successful school year.

Sincerely,

Mike Gaston
Escalon Unified SARB Supervisor

Tori Verber Salazar
San Joaquin County District Attorney