



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

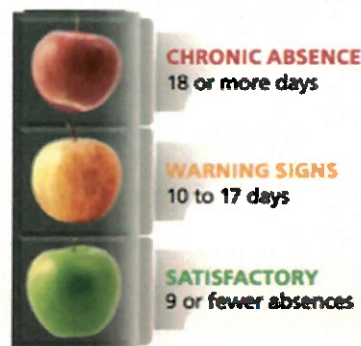
## Absences Add Up!

→ Just 2 Days Missed Per Month is TOO MANY ←

**La Mesa-Spring Valley Schools care about our students' attendance because it directly affects their future. Children who miss 2 days per month or more are considered CHRONICALLY ABSENT.**

- Students who are chronically absent in kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade are much less likely to learn to read by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- By 6<sup>th</sup> grade, chronic absence is a proven early-warning sign of drop-out.
- By 9<sup>th</sup> grade, good attendance can predict graduation even better than eighth-grade test scores.

### When Do Absences Become a Problem?



### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors/social workers, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

### PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME IF HE OR SHE HAS:

A fever of 100.5°F or above within the last 24 hours

An undiagnosed rash

Diarrhea or vomiting within the last 24 hours

*Are you still unsure whether you should bring your child to school? If so, bring your student to the health tech at school to determine whether he or she should stay at school or go home to recover.*