

November, 2009

Dear Parents:

In 1998, the State of California changed the method by which school districts account for student attendance by eliminating all excused absences. As a result, all schools receive funding only for the days that students are physically in school for some or all of a regular school day.

With the elimination of excused absences, your child's regular attendance is important for two reasons. First and foremost, research is clear that student achievement is tied to regular attendance. Secondly, the Hermosa Beach City School District's income is tied directly to student attendance. As of this school year, each day a child is absent from school, regardless of the reason, our schools lose \$40 per day per child in income.

The purpose of this letter is not only to inform you of our attendance record keeping, but to encourage you to send your child to school each day. If it is necessary to remove your child from school for medical appointments, please send them to school for as much of the instructional day as possible. In addition, if you have a family event or trip planned of 5 or more days and the trip conflicts with school time, please arrange with the school office for your child to make up work using the Independent Study forms available. If that is done, the District will receive funding for those days. This option is not available for anything less than 5 days.

As always, we appreciate your support in this matter.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Bruce C. Newlin, Ed. D.
Superintendent