



South Pasadena Unified School District
1020 El Centro Street
South Pasadena, California 91030
(626) 441-5810
<http://www.spusd.net>

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE – EVERY DAY COUNTS

July 2011

Dear Parents:

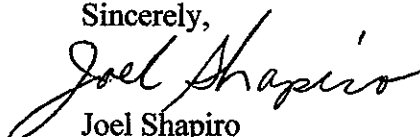
As you are aware, the main source of funding for public school districts in California is money that comes directly from the State, based on the number of students who attend school each day (Average Daily Attendance or ADA). Schools receive State funding only for students who actually attend school. This manner of calculating school funding can have devastating consequences. In a small district like ours, with a \$30 million dollar budget, absences caused by a sweeping outbreak such as the flu, or other excessive absences, can result in a significant loss. In our case, a day's absence for one student is worth about \$35.00. If we could increase our ADA by just 1%, we would see an increase of about \$264,000 coming into our general fund budget.

Studies show that there is a direct correlation between good school attendance and student achievement. We know how difficult it is for students to be successful when their learning is interrupted by absences. For this reason, as well as the loss of funds caused by absences, we encourage you to reinforce the importance of good school attendance and to make every effort to send your child to school on a regular basis. Unless your child is ill, please do your best to make sure that he/she comes to school every day.

We urge you to avoid family vacations that conflict with school, and to try to schedule medical appointments or other appointments after school hours whenever possible. If you find it necessary to keep your child out of school for reasons other than illness, we encourage you to send your child to school for at least part of the day, so that your child will not be counted absent, and also will not miss out on important school assignments.

It is crucial that South Pasadena Unified School District continues to receive the financial resources necessary to provide quality educational services and avoid program cuts. We want to prevent the unnecessary absences that reduce District resources and limit your child's opportunity to achieve at the highest level. I appreciate your support in meeting this goal.

Sincerely,


Joel Shapiro
Superintendent