



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

STATE OF CALIFORNIA ATTENDANCE FUNDING

August, 2008

Dear Parents:

Beginning in 1998, school districts no longer receive funding from the State of California for pupils who are absent from school. This includes all absences, even those relating to illness, medical or doctors' appointments. Previously districts were reimbursed for verified absences for illness, doctors' appointments, etc.

In other words, schools receive state funding only for student who actually attend school. Over the last several years this has not been a major issue for us here in South Pasadena because our attendance rate at all schools is consistently high – 97 to 98 percent. In addition, many parents who are keenly aware that the District loses funds when their students are out have reimbursed the District for the lost ADA (Average Daily Attendance).

This revised manner of calculating ADA can have devastating consequences. In a small district such as ours with a \$ 33 million dollar budget, absences caused by a sweeping outbreak such as the flu can be a significant loss. In our case, a day's absence is worth \$45.19. If we could increase our ADA by just one percent (1%), we would see an increase of \$242,926.00 coming into our general fund budget.

If you find it necessary to keep your child out of school for reasons other than an 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 local schools continue to receive the financial resources necessary to provide quality educational services and reduce program cuts. We want to avoid the unnecessary absences that reduce District resources and limit your child's opportunity to obtain good grades.***

Studies show that there is a direct correlation between good school attendance and student achievement; therefore, we encourage you as parents to reinforce the importance of good school attendance and to make every effort to send your child to school on a regular basis.

Again, we encourage your continued support to promote good school attendance and student achievement.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian E. Bristol
Superintendent of Schools