

What is SUSD doing to improve attendance?

Each school in Sierra Unified is implementing attendance incentive programs to recognize students with good attendance, and encourage those who don't have good attendance to improve. Our district is partnering with the Fresno County Office of Education, the Fresno County Probation Department, and community members to facilitate a School Attendance Review Board (SARB) process to assist families in improving student attendance, and each school site is meeting individually with students and parents of students who become truant or display chronic absenteeism.

The purpose of each individual meeting is to ensure every student and parent understands how important it is for the student to attend school regularly and to help prevent families from being referred to the SARB process. Additionally, each school site is working hard to prevent student suspension and expulsion for non-violent education code or school rule violations. Minor, non-violent, rule violations that were once handled through school suspension are now addressed through conferences, after school detentions, or more educationally based consequences. All of this is in an effort to keep kids in school and learning.

More information about the importance of school attendance, attendance policies, or data and statistics about attendance nationally and at the state level are available on the California Department of Education website and the Attendance Works website. More information about what each school site is doing to reinforce good attendance and prevent truancy and chronic absenteeism can be obtained by contacting your school site or the Sierra Unified School District Office.

<http://www.attendanceworks.org>