

Summerville Union High School District

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Superintendent Michael Merrill

Board of Education * David Atkins * Kurt Bayers * Chantal Fowler * Randy Richter * Dennis Spisak

August 1, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am Michael Merrill and I am honored to be Superintendent of Summerville Union High School District. Please read this letter regarding the importance of regular daily attendance at school.

As we prepare for the new school year, I want to emphasize the critical role that regular school attendance plays in your student's academic success and overall development.

Why Attendance Matters

Regular attendance is vital for several reasons:

- **Academic Achievement:** Students who attend school consistently are more likely to grasp new concepts, participate in class discussions, and perform well on assessments. Missing just two days a month can lead to chronic absenteeism, which negatively impacts learning and increases the risk of falling behind.
- **Social and Emotional Development:** School is not only about academics; it's also where students build relationships, develop social skills, and gain confidence. Frequent absences can hinder these aspects of growth and may lead to feelings of isolation.
- **Future Success:** Studies show that students with strong attendance records are more likely to graduate on time and pursue higher education or stable employment.

How You Can Help

As your student's first advocate, your support is crucial in fostering good attendance habits:

- **Establish a Routine:** Set consistent bedtimes and morning schedules to ensure your student is well-rested and prepared for school.
- **Schedule Appointments Wisely:** Whenever possible, arrange medical or dental appointments outside of school hours to minimize disruptions. Students should attend at least part of the school day so they can submit work, ask questions and collect work that needs to be completed to stay on track.
- **Communicate with Us:** If your student is facing challenges that affect their attendance, please reach out to your student's Grade Level Coordinator (GLC). We are here to support you and your student.
- **Encourage Positive Attitudes:** Talk to your child about the importance of school, and encourage them to attend regularly.

Serving the communities of: Cold Springs, Long Barn, Mi-Wuk Village, Pinecrest, Sierra Village
Strawberry, Sugar Pine, Tuolumne, Twain Harte

We Are Here to Support You


We understand that occasional absences due to illness or emergencies are unavoidable; however, we encourage you to prioritize regular attendance to ensure your student receives the full benefits of their education. If you have any concerns or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office. We are all here as advocates for your students as well.

How Does School Funding Work?

School funding is based on students being at school and in class on a daily basis. This is known as **Average Daily Attendance or ADA**—only those students present are calculated for funding purposes. If a student is present for at least part of the school day, funding is apportioned for the school. If a student does not attend any school for a given day regardless of excused or unexcused reasons, no funding is apportioned for the district for that day.

It is our District's goal to achieve at least a 95% attendance rate, and we ask for your help to achieve this goal. Thank you for your continued partnership in your student's education. Together, we can ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Merrill
District Superintendent
Summerville Union High School District

Attendance Secretary:

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