



STUDENT ABSENCES MEAN LOST DOLLAR\$ FOR YOUR SCHOOL

Did you know that the State of California funds schools based on the daily attendance of the students? The state takes money away from schools when a student is absent – no matter what the reason.

Even though student attendance in Oak Park is good, **student absences cost our schools OVER \$1,000,000 in the last school year!** That is a significant amount of money, especially when you consider how hard the parent organizations work to raise money to support our schools, the taxes you pay, and how hard everyone works to educate our children.

In the coming year, each day a student is absent from school the state will take away \$47.39.

We would like to minimize student absences primarily because students miss out on important learning and activities when they are absent. Additionally, due to this unique funding system, our schools are losing significant funding when Oak Park USD is already one of the lowest funded school districts in the state. We rank in the bottom 80 out of 950 districts and we are the LOWEST funded district in Ventura County. This is due to the new state funding formula that provides districts that do not serve significant numbers of English Learners, children on the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch program, and foster youth with only the minimum (base) state funding level.

If your child is ill, please keep him/her home. We don't want students coming to school when they are sick. BUT, please try to plan trips and excursions on weekends and the many days off that the students have rather than take them out of class.

Please try to schedule medical appointments after school. If this is unavoidable, consider bringing the student to school and taking them out for only part day. Not only will the student at least make contact with his/her teacher(s) but the state will fund for students if they are in school until at least 9:00 a.m.

If you choose to take your child out of school for a trip or excursion, many school districts ask the parents to consider making a donation to cover the lost revenue – for this coming year it is \$47.39 per day absent per child. We would like to invite you to do this as well. We are starting a special fund – please make checks payable to OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT and drop it off at your school. This is completely voluntary, of course, and is a tax-deductible donation. The funds collected will be used to support the expenses that are incurred each day at school. Even though a child is absent and the revenues for that day taken away by the state, the District is still responsible for the teacher's salary for that day and for all of the other expenses of running the school. In other words, there is no corresponding reduction in expense due to the absence of the child that would justify the loss of the state revenue.

Thank you for your help with this important issue and for your efforts to ensure that your child(ren) attend(s) school every day.