



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEWS RELEASE**

CONTACT: Gail Pinsker
310.450.8338, ext. 70230
gpinsker@smmusd.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 25, 2017

Message from Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati

Promoting School Attendance: Every Student, Every Day

While September is Attendance Awareness Month, our district's pledge is to create a culture of attendance every day, every month. We know that achievement and student success is inextricably linked to attendance. The leadership and staff at the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District are dedicated to ongoing communication, support and encouragement around the importance of showing up.

One of the most important things we can do to support academic success is to get our students to school every day and every day on time. Here's why:

- In the elementary years, children who miss school are more likely to struggle academically and in later years, to dropout entirely
- In the secondary years, attendance is the No. 1 predictor of dropout and graduation rates
- Attendance is a top indicator of being on track for graduation and for college and career readiness
- Nearly 67% of course failures were attributed to attendance

Every year, thanks to our partnerships, we strive for continuous attendance improvements. With you on our team, we are recovering valuable learning time for our students. Thank you for your dedication all year long—together we are making a difference!

Sincerely,

Dr. Ben Drati
Superintendent

#

SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
1651 16TH Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404
ph: 310.450.8338; fax: 310.581.1138
www.smmusd.org Follow us on Twitter: @SMMUSD