

# **NO Excuses**

## **Go to School**

### **Facts about Attendance**

*Selected from the California Department of Education's 2000 "School Attendance Improvement Handbook" and Elk Grove Unified School District data*

- California law requires that children ages six to 18 attend school regularly.
- Since 1997 with the passage of Senate Bill 727 schools do not get funding for excused absences – only actual attendance.
- A truant is any student who is absent from school three times in the same school year without a valid excuse according to the California Education code.
- Studies show that incentives and rewards programs boost attendance and student excitement about school.
- Daylight juvenile crime decreases significantly when the community works together to keep students in school.
- Studies demonstrate students who are absent two or more days each school month struggle more academically than their classmates.
- Chronic absenteeism is associated with dropping out of school.
- Absenteeism often leads to students falling behind in school.
- Missing too much school can affect students' ability to learn key socialization concepts.
- Students who are often absent require more individual attention from teachers.
- Studies show that truancy leads to criminal activity, incarceration and drug use.
- Every day a student misses school Elk Grove Unified loses \$33 in state funding.
- If Elk Grove Unified schools all increased their attendance by 1 percent the district would gain an additional \$3.4 million in state revenue.