Elementary Attendance – Key Points for Parents

1. Daily Attendance Really Matters

- Regular attendance is strongly linked to student success—academically and socially.
- Elementary students are expected to attend every full instructional day unless they have a valid excuse.
- Missed classroom instruction and activities cannot always be recreated, even with make-up work.

2. What Counts as a Valid Excuse

Parents should contact the school to excuse an absence for:

- Illness (physical *or* mental/behavioral health — no doctor's note required)
- Family death
- Approved school activities
- Court appearances or scheduled medical appointments
- Pre-arranged family events (with advance notice)
- Absences allowed through an IEP or 504 Plan

3. Unexcused Absences

- Any absence without a valid excuse is considered unexcused.
- Teachers are not required to provide make-up work for unexcused absences.
- Frequent unexcused absences can lead to formal notices and required meetings.

4. Chronic Absenteeism

- Missing 10% or more of school days (for any reason) is considered chronic absenteeism.
- This triggers early support and interventions, not punishment.
- The goal is to identify barriers and help students return to regular attendance.

5. Compulsory Education Notices (Grades 1–6)

- If a student has 5 unexcused absences, the school may issue a Notice of Compulsory Education Violation.
- Parents are required to meet with school staff and work together to improve attendance.
- The focus is on support, communication, and problem-solving.

6. School Support & Interventions

Schools use restorative and supportive approaches, including:

- Parent-teacher conferences
- Academic and behavioral support
- Counseling and skill-building (organization, routines, self-regulation)
- Connecting families with community resources
- Ongoing communication about attendance concerns

💡 The goal is helping students succeed, not punishment.