Dear [Parents/Guardian],

We need your help.  [STUDENTS NAME]’s absences from school are concerning, and your partnership is critical.  Students who miss just one or two days of school each month can fall seriously behind.

[STUDENT NAME] is now chronically absent because they missed school (or were more than 30 minutes late) for 10% of the school year to date. Here are the dates of your student’s absences:

Being absent can lead to doing poorly in school. Students who miss many days of school are more likely to:

* Fail their classes
* Drop out from high school
* Have poor relationships with parents and teachers

We are required by California law to send you this letter and to warn you of the consequences of additional unexcused absences (see below). Please remember that every absence matters and just a couple days each month adds up.  **You are key** to improving [STUDENT NAME]’s attendance.

Sincerely,

Principal/Admin Designee Date:

Truancy--California Education Code School administrators determine what types of absences are excused or unexcused based on state law and on the facts of the pupil’s circumstance.  When a child is absent from school and/or tardy in excess of 30 minutes on three (3) occasions in one school year without a valid excuse, the law considers that child to be truant.

Education Code Section 48260.5 requires us to inform you of the following:

* That the parent or guardian is obligated to compel the attendance of the pupil at school.
* That parents or guardians who fail to meet these obligations may be guilty of an infraction or misdemeanor and subject to prosecution pursuant to Article 6 (commencing with Section 48290) of Chapter 2 or Part 27 or Penal Code 270.1.
* That alternative education programs are available in the district.
* That the parent or guardian has the right to meet with appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the pupil’s truancy
* That the pupil may be subject to prosecution under Education Code Section 48264
* That the pupil may be subject to suspension, restriction, or delay of the pupil’s driving privilege pursuant to Section 13202.7 of the Vehicle Code.
* That it is recommended that the parent or guardian accompany the pupil to school and attend classes with the pupil for one day.

If you have concerns about your child’s attendance or if you believe our records are inaccurate contact the school.