Toltec School District #22
4050 W. Tonto Road Eloy, AZ 85131 520-466-2360
Dr. Michelle Poppen, Superintendent

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope this message finds you well. As partners in your child's education, we want to emphasize the critical importance of regular school attendance and its direct impact on academic success.

Daily attendance is one of the strongest predictors of student achievement. When students miss school, they miss valuable instruction, classroom discussions, guided practice, and peer collaboration that cannot be fully replicated through make-up work. Even a few absences each month can lead to a significant loss of learning over time. This loss of instructional time can affect skill development, confidence, and overall academic performance.

In accordance with **Arizona Revised Statutes § 15-803**, every child between the ages of 6 and 16 is required to attend school regularly. The law outlines the responsibility of parents and guardians to ensure consistent attendance. Excessive absences, whether excused or unexcused can interfere with academic progress and may require school intervention.

In addition to the academic impact, poor attendance can also adversely affect school funding. Arizona public school funding is directly tied to student attendance through Average Daily Membership (ADM). When students are absent, schools receive less funding to support instructional programs, student services, classroom resources, and extracurricular opportunities. Consistent attendance not only benefits your child's learning but also helps ensure that our schools have the resources necessary to serve all students effectively.

We understand that illnesses, family emergencies, and other circumstances can arise. Our goal is not only to uphold state law, but to work in partnership with you to support your child's success. If your family is experiencing challenges that make regular attendance difficult, please contact your child's school office, counselor, or principal. We are committed to collaborating with you to identify solutions and provide available support.

Together, we can ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to your child's education.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michelle Poppen
Superintendent
Toltec School District
mpoppen@toltecsd.org

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much, but...

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling, that's...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

How about 10 minutes late a day? Surely that won't affect my child?

He/she is only missing just...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling, that's...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ year
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 minutes per week	Over 2½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 minutes per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1½ years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years

EVERY DAY COUNTS

If you want your child to be successful at school then, YES, attendance does matter!

Provided by: ADE School Improvement