

## Attendance Tips...

- ★ Education should be your child's TOP PRIORITY.
- ★ If your child is not in school, he won't get the skills he needs to graduate.
- ★ Young people who miss school are often the victims or perpetrators of crime.
- ★ Tardies and leaving school early should be an exception—not the norm.



## What are the school attendance laws and what are my responsibilities as a parent? What are my child's responsibilities?

### Fact:

**70%**

of the revenue for Ramona Unified School District comes *directly* from the average number of students present at school each day.

All persons between 6 and 18 years of age are required by California law to attend school. Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure their child's attendance. (Education Code Section 48200)

A student's refusal to attend school regularly can result in referral to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB), Juvenile Probation, and the Juvenile Court System (education Code 48263).

Parents who fail to compel their child's attendance may face criminal prosecution and penalties (Education Code, section 48291).

### What is Truancy?

A pupil is considered truant if he/she is absent without valid excuse 3 full days in one school year or tardy or absent more than any 30-minute period during the school day without a valid excuse on 3 occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof. (Education Code Section 48260)

### What is "Soft Truancy"?

Soft Truancy is a negative attendance pattern that often leads to direct violations of the Education Code of California.

### *Soft Truancy includes, but is not limited to...*

- ★ Bringing a child late to school (under 30 minutes).
- ★ Picking your child up early for family outings, vacations, frequent medical appointments or business, or even trying to avoid traffic.
- ★ Frequent excused absences.
- ★ Keeping an older child home to babysit a sibling
- ★ Irregular attendance at school

### Fact:

Hard Truancy almost always begins with a pattern of "Soft Truancy" that is not corrected.

Early intervention is one of the most effective cures.