**CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM**

(For Board Approval – 11/28/2022)

***At HSHMC, Our Goal Is To Have All Children Present In School Every Day And To Maximize Instructional Time.***

* We monitor student attendance and tardies closely because research evidence has shown that regular attendance is vital for the success of children in school.
* Regularly attending school and being present in class is a critical part of HSHMC’s instructional program.
* When students regularly attend school and class they are meeting a primary condition to maintain their school and student status.
* Chronic absenteeism will generally be considered a student/family decision to not participate in the educational program HSHMC, by Charter contract, is responsible for providing.
* Therefore, there are significant consequences in place to avoid chronic absenteeism. Families are encouraged to meet with school leaders to communicate extenuating circumstances that may affect school attendance before excess absences are accumulated.
* *The school’s attendance policy* is in the student handbook. **HSHMC considers chronic absenteeism** asgrounds for the student to be *disenrolled or transferred* from the school. Families may voluntarily consider other options. Provisions regarding the right of the school for “involuntary removal” are specified in California Ed. Code California 47605.*The term “involuntarily removed” includes disenrolled, dismissed, transferred, or terminated.* Code also specifies parents’ due process regarding these actions.
* These due process procedures will be followed as part of this policy. HSHMC shall provide written notice of its intent to remove or transfer the student at least five school days before the effective date of the disenrollment or transfer decision. If HSHMC elects to disenroll [*or transfer*] the student, the parent or guardian may, any time prior to the effective date of disenrollment [*or transfer*], request a hearing adjudicated by a neutral officer at which the student has a fair opportunity to present his or her testimony, evidence, and witnesses in accordance with Education Code § 47605 (b)(5)(J). The student shall remain enrolled at HSHMC until HSHMC issues a final decision on the matter.

Please realize there are four effective ways to avoid this process being considered:

1. Attend school regularly
2. Obtain independent contracts in advance of known absences
3. Call in school absences due to illness and supply a doctor’s note after three days of absence
4. Elect to voluntarily enroll in ISP when circumstances prohibit regular school attendance

**Definitions Of Chronic Absenteeism.**

Research shows that a cumulative 10 days of school absence during the school year substantially impacts learning and school success. The state of California considers a student chronically absent if they are **missing 10 percent or more of the total number of days enrolled during the school year for any reason**. It includes both excused, unexcused, out-of-school suspensions, and in-school suspensions that last more than one-half of the school day.