ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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www.orangeusd.org

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

School districts in California receive revenue based on the number of students that attend school. Anytime a student is absent, excused or unexcused, the money for that day is forfeited by the District. The loss in revenue due to absences is approximately $5.5 million per year for Orange Unified. Over the course of the last several years, the state reduced revenue to school districts by almost 20% due to the economic downturn. Revenue to the Orange Unified School District has been reduced by approximately $116 million since 2007-08. The reduction is on-going, which means that the cuts will continue to impact the District into the foreseeable future.

In the furtherance of addressing the impact of the budget reductions, a process was developed whereby parents are able to pay or reimburse the school district for student absences. The Board of Education approved the concept within the Three-year Strategic Plan under the goal of *Effective Use of Resources*, Target B: *Maximize Revenue and Minimize Expenditures*, Strategy 2: *Maximize Revenue by Increasing Student Attendance*, Bullet 2: *Provide a vehicle for parents to reimburse lost ADA (Average Daily Attendance).*

The development of this process is not an attempt to legitimize students missing school, but is rather an acknowledgement that families have occasional commitments that require students to miss a day of school. Should you find yourself in that situation and would like to reimburse the District for the lost revenue, a check, payable to "OUSD - ADA", can be dropped off at your child's school or mailed to Orange Unified School District, 1401 N. Handy Street, Orange, CA 92867. The cost to the District for each missed day of school is $40; however, the cost to the student for a lost day of instruction is priceless.

Thank you for your consideration and support. Please call the Business Services Division at (714) 628-4479 if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

M. L. Christensen

Michael L. Christensen
Superintendent of Schools