



Board Talking Points

November 1, 2024

Welcome to November! This is always an exciting time as we head into the holiday season. The region is currently engaged in two initiatives to promote student achievement and increase school security.

Chronic Absenteeism Since the pandemic, districts have experienced a decline in school attendance. Chronic Absenteeism occurs when a student misses over 10% of a school year. Since Chronic Absenteeism is usually attributed to family dynamics, school personnel utilize multiple strategies to provide support. Through the *Everyday Matters grant*, IMESD developed a regional program to assist districts with materials, letters, and coordination.

Despite these interventions, some students still remain chronically absent and do not meet the compulsory school attendance law. Districts may be forced to issue citations. In Umatilla County, the circuit court will allow parents to decide whether they pay a fine or participate in a Parent Effectiveness Program, (PEP) facilitated by mental health providers and CARE. In Union County, a truancy ordinance was passed. Morrow County is currently evaluating its citation process as well.

It is exciting to see the commitment by our communities to address Chronic Absenteeism.

Threat Assessment Program School officials are constantly monitoring safety concerns to protect our students. Evaluating threats quickly and efficiently is a necessary part of a school administrator's job. This fall, IMESD sponsored a regional training event to assist districts in establishing protocols for Level 1 and 2 threats. Forming local community teams, including mental health and law enforcement officials, is a critical component of the threat assessment process.

MISSION

To provide outstanding customer service to our school districts in four areas: special education, technology, school improvement, and administrative services.

VISION

IMESD strives to ensure the success of every child by providing equitable services to close the opportunity gap. We are committed to the values of antiracism and multiculturalism.