

Family Support Program
Truancy and Dropout Prevention

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to announce that Taos Charter School has been awarded a grant for this school year that allows us to support families in improving school attendance. It also includes dropout prevention which translates to supporting students with behavior issues and/or low grades.

In the 2016-2017 school year we recorded 18 students that missed 18 or more days of school. That is more than 10% of instruction time. Some of these were unavoidable due to medical or other unforeseen emergencies. Those cannot be helped, but many more absences are linked to transportation difficulties, behavioral issues, etc, and these are the ones we can work together to improve.

Tardies show up as a significant problem as well. Twenty-two students had between 10 and 30 tardies. Remember that every three tardies equal one unexcused absence, and 10 unexcused absences equals a mandatory referral to the Juvenile Probation Office. Tardies are detrimental to not only the student who is late, but to the classmates and teachers who are interrupted. Tardies, at least at my house, are usually caused by poor time-management or disorganization, both of which are habits that can be broken with a little planning effort.

So, what does the Family Support Program do to help? Greta Brown is the Family Support Coordinator and she has some ideas of how to support students and families around the issues of absences, tardies, behavior, and grades, but she also wants the ideas and contributions of the students and families.