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Dear Parents and Guardians,

A child's regular attendance at school sets the stage for academic success and graduation. A child is considered "chronically absent" when she or he misses 10% or more of school days in a school year for any reason. That is equal to missing approximately 17 days of school during a school year. Frequent absences can be devastating for a child's school success; for example, children who are chronically absent in kindergarten are about a year behind in reading by the third grade and unlikely to ever catch up to their peers.

In Alaska, students are missing too much school from health conditions and other reasons and this is no different for YKSD. Every day that a student misses class is a lost learning opportunity that holds our youth back. This puts their future, and ours, at risk.

Chronic student absenteeism is a measure of all absences — excused and unexcused, consecutive or not — as they relate to students' overall attendance. Chronic absenteeism is calculated into the overall Every Student Succeeds Act ASPI accountability score for each school.

As we begin the next semester of school, we need to work together to keep all of our kids in school, every day, from kindergarten through graduation.

Sincerely,

Kerry Bŏyd

Superintendent