

# THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

440 NORTH BROAD STREET, SUITE 301  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19130

**WILLIAM R. HITE, JR., Ed.D.**  
*SUPERINTENDENT*

June 3, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As we approach the end of the school year, our schools begin to experience what's known as "the Spring Slide" and the "June Slump." This is a troubling pattern in which student attendance rates start to drop in May and worsen in June. We realize some absences are unavoidable, for example, due to health problems. But, we also know that when students miss too much school regardless of the reason it can cause them to fall behind academically. To ensure that your child receives the best education possible, I am asking you to help us ensure the regular, on-time attendance of your child at school every day until the last day of school. Please discuss with your children why attendance is so important for success in school, and about continuing to put forth their best efforts in all of their classes. **Instruction will continue and attendance for students will be recorded on a daily basis by the District and calculated through the last day of school, June 22, 2016.**

Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance at the end of the school year:

- Ensure your child goes to school every day unless they are truly sick.
- Avoid scheduling vacations or appointments when school is in session.
- Make sure your child keeps a regular bedtime.
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your child starts to become restless about going to school.

We want your child to be successful in school! If you have any questions or need more information please contact your child's school.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and support.

Sincerely,



William R. Hite, Jr., Ed.D.