We know that when students are not in school, they cannot learn, & that for every one day of school missed, it takes a day & a half of school to catch up. United Way’s Every Student, Every Day — a set of interventions to increase school attendance & close the achievement gap — facilitates partnerships between schools, universities, community providers, families & students. We collaborate closely with elementary schools in the San Diego region to change the odds for local children & their families.

**EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY**’S OBJECTIVE: To make sure all students are in school, ready to learn. We promote the importance of attendance & provide targeted supports for individual students & families that boost their stability & the student’s attendance rates.

**UNIVERSITY WAY OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY** works every day to change the odds for children & their families. For 97 years we have been working to disrupt the cycle of poverty, provide resources for struggling families to become self-sufficient, & to create better lives for local children by illuminating the pathways for success that come through learning & succeeding in school. We do this by focusing on readiness for kindergarten, early grade literacy, & preparing for college & career, all with a foundation of family stability. At United Way, we help students outside the classroom to set them up for success inside the classroom.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**
Contact Rachel McLean, Impact Program Manager at 858.636.4136 / Rachel McLean@uwsd.org
United Way recruits & supervises local college & university interns who collaborate with school staff to meet with students & families, & to understand root causes & barriers for attendance issues. Interns also direct activities to increase school-wide messaging around the importance of attendance.

Interns connect families & students to services they need & coordinate resources to help families get back on track. For example, our partnership with the County’s Health & Human Services Agency allows eligibility workers onto school campuses, making it quicker & easier for families to access benefits.

In partnership with 2-1-1 San Diego, we capture data on the resources families need, those they access, & track improvements in attendance & academic performance. We use this data to measure progress & do more of what works! While we are supporting students outside the classroom, teachers & principals can support them inside the classroom.

United Way is uniquely qualified to unite stakeholders around common goals—improve attendance to bolster academic achievement & support family stability. In stable families, kids have enough healthy food, a reliable place to call home, stimulating environments to grow & play, emotional support from loving adults, positive relationships with neighbors in their community & a feeling of safety.

United Way partners with San Diego Unified School District to identify & prioritize interventions for students with attendance concerns. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10% or more (18+ days) of school per year.

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