

# Student Attendance Matters

## A Guide for Parents - Elementary



We want our students to reach their full potential. To reach that potential, it's important that they come to school regularly and on time.

Regular attendance is one of the best ways to help ensure students are successful in school and later in life. It can lead to better grades, developing important social skills and friendships, and a greater opportunity of graduating from high school.

When attending school regularly, students are present for class discussions, demonstrations, group work, hands on activities, etc. These are among the most effective ways for students to learn.

### Absenteeism Facts

- Starting in primary, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

### Every Day Counts

Missing 1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much but...

If your child misses...	That equals about...	Which is about...	Equaling...
1 day/week	40 days/year	5.5 weeks/year	22% of the school year
2 days/week	80 days/year	11 weeks/year or 3 months	43% of the school year
3 days/week	120 days/year	30 weeks/year or 6 months	65% of the school year



## What Parents and Guardian Can Do



- Make school attendance a priority - discuss with your child the importance of having good attendance.
- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Remove technology from their bedroom - many children stay up late playing games and this is a hindrance to a good night's sleep.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Have a set time to do homework - this can be difficult because families are so busy but this will help your child feel prepared for the next day.
- Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make them feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Have good communication with the school; you can always ask a teacher how things are going with respect to your child.
- Encourage your child to participate in after school extra curricular activities. This is a great way for your child to feel connected with the school and staff.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

## ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

### GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



#### ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

read well by the end of third grade



#### MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

pass important courses



#### HIGH SCHOOLERS

stay on track for graduation



#### COLLEGE STUDENTS

earn their degrees



#### WORKERS

succeed in their jobs



**South Shore**

Regional Centre for Education