## Help Your Child Succeed in School: Building the Habit of Good Attendance

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing $10 \%$, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn and read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss 1 or 2 days every few weeks.
- Being late may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.
- Regular attendance refers to missing no more than 5 days in a school year.


## WHEN DO ABSENCES BECOME A PROBLEM?



SEVERE CHRONIC ABSENCE
$20+$ days or $20 \%$ instruction day (K-8)
$20+$ classes in a single high school course (9-12)
CHRONIC ABSENCE
$10+$ days or $10 \%$ instruction day (K-8)
$10+$ classes in a single high school course (9-12)


REGULAR ATTENDANCE
5 days or less ( $K-8$ )
5 classes or less in a single high school course (9-12)
$\diamond$ These numbers assume a 180-day school year.
More The Public Schools Act directs that when a child is absent from school the teacher or the employee recording school attendance shall, in writing, report the matter, including the name of the child, to the principal of the school. A principal who receives a report of an absence must, if satisfied that the child is in fact absent, (a) report the absence to the child's parent; (b) inform them of their obligation to ensure that the child 1) attends school or 2) if the child is at least 15 years old, participates in any activity or program provided for in the regulations made under section 262.2


An Indigenous Education Policy Framework supports the holistic achievements of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit learners by helping Manitoba educators incorporate Indigenous languages, cultures, and identities into their teaching practices, setting all students up for success in school and beyond. The four strategic priority areas (Authentic Involvement; Putting Students at the Centre; Understanding World Views, Values, Identities, Traditions, and Contemporary Lifestyles; and Inclusive and Culturally Safe Learning Environments) provide the foundation to supporting and enhancing student presence and engagement.

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"An equitable, inclusive, and diverse education system fosters a sense of belonging in all learners so that they feel they can succeed, take responsibility and find their purpose in life, and achieve The Good Life / Mino-pimatisiwin (Ininew) / Mino Bimaadiziwin (Anishinabemowin) / honso aynai (Dene) / tokatakiya
 pimatishiwin (Michif)"

> FACT: At+ending school regularly' helps children feel better about school-themselves. We can start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and college.,

## WHAT CAN WE DO

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Keep your child healthy.
- Introduce your children to their teachers and classmates before school starts.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on another family member, a neighbor or friend.
- Try to schedule medical appointment and extended trips when school isn't in session.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- If your child must stay home due to illness, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning from home.
- Create a safe, welcoming, and culturally responsive school environment for students.
- Notify parents/caregivers via voicemail/automated system.
- If absence continues, a personal contact from teacher or designate to better understand the nature of the absence.
- Be proactive to identify strategies in response to barriers.
- Offer nutritional snacks to support students health and well being as it may be a barrier to student engagement and success when gaps in nutrition are not met.
- Provide opportunities to connect with the school and acknowledge and support family circumstances, support the presence of their child in school.
- Enhance visibility of staff at transition times. This includes throughout the school day as well as when students move from one grade or another or to different schools.

