



# 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)

◆ These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

## Legislation and Policy ...Under

Manitoba's *Public Schools Act*, children are required to attend school from the time they reach compulsory school age (7 years of age or will be reaching 7 years of age by December 31 in a given calendar year) until they attain the age of 18. Every parent of a child of compulsory school age is responsible for sending their children to school regularly. Every student is responsible for attending school and classes regularly and on time and completing assignments for other related work.

**A principal must** report a child's absence to the local school student services coordinator if the principal is satisfied that (a) the child continues to be absent from school after the child's parent has been informed of the absence; and (b) the parent has had a reasonable opportunity to comply with their obligations under this Act.

**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



