



Importance of School Attendance

Regular school attendance is an important part of giving your child the best possible start in life. Talking to your child and their teachers could help to solve any difficulties you have in getting your child to go to school - and there are other forms of support available if you still have concerns.

Regular school attendance - why is it so important?

Students who attend school on a regular basis have higher levels of academic achievement. Below are some suggestions parents can use to encourage, promote, and ensure regular school attendance:

- Make attendance and academics a priority.
- Get organized. Create a space in your home for children to store backpacks and other supplies.
- Set reasonable bedtimes. On average, school-aged children need about nine hours of sleep to be healthy and alert.
- Stay home only when really sick.
- Communicate with school staff. Let the school know in advance if your child is going to be absent or if you have concerns about your child’s attendance or school performance.

Results of Poor Attendance:

Grade	# of days absent over the year	Total	Impacts
JK	40 (4 days per month)	40	¼ of the year missed
SK	40 (4 days per month)	80	Almost ½ the year missed
1	40 (4 days per month)	120	Over ½ year missed
2	40 (4 days per month)	160	Close to an entire year is missed
3	40 (4 days per month)	200	Missed over an entire year of school
4	40 (4 days per month)	240	1 ½ year of school missed
5	40 (4 days per month)	280	1 ¾ year of school missed
6	40 (4 days per month)	320	Almost two years of school missed

Children who miss school frequently can fall behind with their work and have gaps in their learning, and this will impact tests and exams. If a student has missed an entire year of school by the end of grade 3.

How and when do they make up the skills missed?

If your child starts missing school, there may a problem you are not aware of. Ask your child first, then approach their teacher. As parents we want our children to succeed and to have positive experiences, education is necessary in securing opportunities into adulthood. Attending school regularly will improve the chances of a bright future for your child. As well as the academic benefits, regular attendance means your child will experience the social environment of school life.





Moose Factory Ministik School, Moose Factory Island District School Area Board

Research has shown that school attendance and student achievement are closely linked, as demonstrated by school attendance charts. By making sure your child has excellent attendance at school you are helping them to:

- get the best possible chance of a successful education
- maintain good relationships with teachers and classmates
- set a pattern of behaviour which will be beneficial throughout their life. Research suggests that children who attend school regularly could also be at less risk of getting involved in antisocial behaviour or crime.
- making sure they understand the importance of good attendance and punctuality
- take an interest in their education - ask about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities
- discuss any problems they may have at school - inform their teacher or principal about anything serious
- do not let them take time off school for minor ailments - particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work
- Arrange appointments and outings after school hours, on weekends or during school holidays will help to prevent disruption to your child's education and to the school. Under normal circumstances, you should not expect the school to agree to your child going on holiday during term time.

Support on school attendance

There are many different issues which can affect school attendance. Examples include problems with:

- Bullying
- Housing or care arrangements
- Transportation to and from school
- Work and money

Support from the school and/or Education Authority

Your child's school is the first place to go to discuss any attendance concerns. It is important to work with the school to agree to a plan with you to improve your child's attendance. Potential forms of support include counselling in the school to work with families and schools to overcome bullying and other serious problems

Did you know?

Being in school every day raises your student's chances for scoring well on tests, and securing college admission and scholarship opportunities. Helping your child make regular attendance at school a habit now, can carry over when they seek employment. Making sure your child's job does not require that he/she work during the school day or after 10 p.m. on school nights is one of the best ways to ensure good attendance, every day. Bottom line – Your child needs your support in his/her education on a daily basis in order to succeed.



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Omushkego Education ~ Irene Tomatuk, Director