



PEACE WAPITI PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION

HERE FOR ME. HERE FOR YOU.

Working together to improve student attendance.

JANUARY



PWPSD

What the research says:

Good attendance matters for reading

New and emerging research are showing a clear link between attendance and student achievement in reading. Good attendance habits begin at home with parental support for regular attendance. PWPSD provides a safe and caring environment for all students to grow and succeed.

When students are chronically absent in the early years, they become more at risk for requiring reading interventions by the end of the second grade.

[Attendance in the Early Grades: Why it Matters for Reading](#)



Why good attendance matters

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 per cent (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.
- Absences can affect the whole class if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school – and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

What can you do?

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your child to teachers and classmates before school starts to help with the transition.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbour, or another parent.
- Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick. Keep in mind that 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 counsellors, or other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

Resource: Attendance Works, www.attendanceworks.org

What the research says:

How school attendance influences student success

Research and analysis demonstrates that students who miss more school than their peers consistently score lower on standardized tests, a result that holds true at every age, in every demographic group in every area.

[Absences Add Up: How School Attendance Influences Student Success](#)

