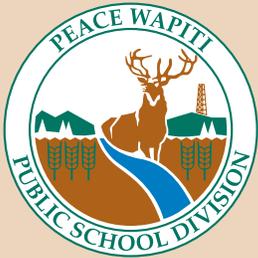




HERE FOR ME. HERE FOR YOU.

Working together to improve student attendance.

October 2018



Absenteeism impacts student success

Research has shown that the reasons for being absent do not minimize the impact it can have on student success rates.

We understand that events and circumstances come up for families.

We want to provide your child with the best opportunities for their success.

Resource: Attendance Works, www.attendanceworks.org



School success begins with school attendance. Being present and engaged in learning is crucial for your child's success in school. As a parent, there are many things you can do to support your child in their success as a student.

Make school attendance a priority

- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Introduce your child to teachers and classmates before school starts to help with the transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to help them feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbour, or another parent.
- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day – make it the expectation.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework, bedtimes and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental/medical appointments during the school day.
- Do your best to minimize missing school for sporting events, family vacations, etc.
- Stay on top of academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors if necessary.
- Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage meaningful after-school activities, including sports and clubs.
- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties.
- Talk to teachers if you notice sudden changes in behaviour. These could be tied to something going on at school.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not piling up.
- Ask for help from school officials, after-school programs, other parents or community agencies if you're having trouble getting your child to school.

What the research says:

Early intervention prevents student disengagement

To prevent student disengagement and increase graduation rates, the application of an early identification and intervention system is key for middle grade students. The following report follows a group of students to demonstrate how poor attendance, misbehaviour and course failure in Grade 6 resulted in 60 per cent of the students not completing high school.

[Preventing Student Disengagement and Keeping Students on the Graduation Path in Urban Middle-Grades Schools: Early Identification and Effective Interventions](#)

