



HERE FOR ME. HERE FOR YOU.

Working together to improve student attendance.

September 2018



How absences add up over time

Missing 10 per cent or more of school days due to absence for any reason – excused, unexcused absences, and suspensions – can add up over time.

By Grade 3:

Student is at risk in reading and numeracy development.

By Grade 6:

Student is at risk of failing subjects.

By Grade 9:

Student is at risk of dropping out.

As a parent, when should I become concerned?

	CRITICAL 18 or more days
	CONCERNING 5-9 days
	SATISFACTORY Less than 5 days

* per school year.



What is *Here For Me, Here For You* about?

This year, Peace Wapiti Public School Division (PWPSD) is changing its attendance practices to help increase regular attendance at school and look at how absenteeism impacts student development.

A three-tiered approach:

- 1. Engage** communities about the importance of regular school attendance.
- 2. Empower** schools to use data to guide and improve practices.
- 3. Eliminate** barriers to attendance through timely and effective interventions.

Our Action Plan – Sharing our new attendance codes

PWPSD has developed new codes to track attendance that will better inform schools and help them support families in establishing positive attendance habits.

PWPSD will also improve attendance communication with parents and provide support to schools on how to work with students, parents and communities.

Our goal for this new initiative is to increase student attendance rates through improved focus, communication and cooperative interventions that will see students achieve success in school and in life.

Resource: Attendance Works, www.attendanceworks.org

ATTENDANCE CODES	
L	Late
PN	Present
ISS	In-School Suspension
CB	Cancelled Bus
IL	Illness
HA	Health Appointment
AB	Absent
OSS	Out-of-School Suspension
AF	Absent (Family)
AV	Absent (Vacation)
REL	Released

What the research says:

School attendance plays a critical role in student achievement

Students must be present and engaged to learn, yet many young students are academically at-risk because of extended absences. An estimated one in 10 kindergarten and first-grade students have too many absences. The following report looks at how schools, communities and families can monitor and promote attendance, and identify and address barriers to good attendance.

[*Present, Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*](#)

