

# Student Attendance Matters

*A Guide for Parents - Middle, Junior & High School*



We want our students to reach their full potential. To reach that potential, it's important that they come to school regularly and on time.

Regular attendance is one of the best ways to help ensure students are successful in school and later in life. It can lead to better grades, developing important social skills and friendships, and a greater opportunity of graduating from high school.

When attending school regularly, students are present for class discussions, demonstrations, group work, hands on activities, etc. These are among the most effective ways for students to learn.

## Absenteeism Facts

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates.
- For high school students, missing 20% of class time puts them at risk for losing credit in a course.
- Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.

## Every Day Counts

Missing 1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much but...

If your child misses...	That equals about...	Which is about...	Equaling...
1 day/week	40 days/year	5.5 weeks/year	22% of the school year
2 days/week	80 days/year	11 weeks/year or 3 months	43% of the school year
3 days/week	120 days/year	30 weeks/year or 6 months	65% of the school year



**South Shore**

Regional Centre for Education