

## **Attendance**

School attendance in NL is mandatory up to the age of 16. Regardless of age, however, students are required to attend all on time and regularly classes unless prevented from doing so by illness or other legitimate reason. Over the years, research has shown a relationship between student attendance and results. The more often a student is not in class, the more likely it is that a test will be missed, a piece of work or an assignment is not passed in or homework is given and the absent student is not aware of it. As a result, student achievement is negatively affected by the loss of instructional time. It is for these reasons that the school places great importance on the regular attendance of all students.

### **Responsibilities of the Students and Parents/Guardians:**

1. Inform the school of legitimate absences through phone call, email, or note. Ensure that all missed class work/notes is obtained from peers and that all homework is submitted upon return. Students should keep up with course work through peers and/or frequent checks of *Power School*.
2. Appointments (e.g., dental, medical, driver=s test, etc.) should be scheduled outside the school day.
3. Attend all classes as skipping is a major offence and the student will be subject to the disciplinary procedure.
4. Inform the school by phone call or note before the student leaves the building.

### **The Schools Act and Student Attendance:**

As per Section 4 and Section 5 of the Schools Act (1997) in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, the following legislation outlines the conditions with respect to excusing students from school.

A student is excused from attending a school where the student:

- 1 Is unable to attend school by reason of illness or other unavoidable causes and the teacher is advised of it, but the principal may require that the illness be certified by a medical practitioner;
- 2 With the prior approval of the director, is under instruction satisfactory to the director, at home or elsewhere, for a period specific by the director;
- 3 Has the written permission of the principal to be absent from school for a reasonable period because, in the opinion of the principal and in accordance with the policy of the board, the student will be exposed to other experiences of significant educational and social value;
- 4 Is for another reason that in the opinion of the principal does not constitute neglect or refusal to attend school under this Act.

It is important to note that parents/guardians extending their holidays during the school year or students staying at home during a school-sponsored activity are examples that are non-legitimate and, as is the case with legitimate absence, the student is responsible for all missed work. A parent/guardian who neglects or refused to enroll his or her child in school or does not make every reasonable effort to ensure that his or her child attends school is guilty of an offence.