

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Background

Peace River School Division recognizes that regular attendance at school is essential to student success and participation in learning activities is necessary to obtain full potential. Although attendance is primarily the responsibility of the parent and student, good communication between the school and the home is vital to student engagement.

Definitions

Absenteeism: excused or unexcused (unexplained) absences from school where there is an impact on student learning.

Compulsory Attendance: as defined by Section 7 of the Education Act.

Procedures

1. The Principal of each school will develop an attendance plan (Appendix A and B) that aligns with Collaborative Response. The plan will encourage regular attendance, monitor student attendance, involve the parents/guardians in resolving attendance problems, and develop school communication and supports that address poor attendance.
 - 1.1. Principals are required to ensure that valid health related issues are not the primary cause of poor attendance;
 - 1.2. Principals are required to ensure that appropriate accommodation and/or adaptation for learning needs are addressed.
2. Any measures taken to improve the student's attendance, communication to parents regarding poor attendance, and attempts to resolve the poor attendance must be documented. This could be completed through Log Entry in PowerSchool.
3. Formal written correspondence to parents will reference the Education Act, outline the school action taken to date, and include the number of days absent.
4. In cases where the school communication and supports have not been effective in addressing poor student attendance, the divisional contact shall be advised.
 - 4.1. A review of the school measures will be completed;
 - 4.2. Determine if additional measures are required;

4.3. Determine next steps;

4.3.1. Arrange a “community conference” or have an elder facilitate a sharing circle that includes all stakeholders;

4.3.2. Contact the Office of Student Attendance & Re-engagement;

4.3.3. Arrange for an Administrative Review (Administrative Procedure 355 – Student Discipline);

4.3.4. Referral to the Attendance Board.

Adopted/Revised: JUN 2016/NOV2019/JUN2020

Reference: Section 1, 7, 8, 9, 31, 32, 33, 46, 48, 49, 52, 53, 55, 196, 197, 222 Education Act

Every Student Counts – Keeping Kids in School Report, 2014

The Power of Positive Connections, 2014

Every Student Counts – Make the Attendance Connection, 2015

Reclaiming Youth at Risk: Our Hope for the Future--Larry Brendtro, Martin Brokenleg, and Steve Van Bockern, 1990