

"Good attendance is an important issue that is proven to ultimately impact graduation rates and student success later in life. ...

United Way Regina and [Regina Public Schools] urge that getting students to class and keeping them in school is everyone's business. It leads better graduation outcomes, but more importantly, helps create more engaged active citizens who, in turn, are better prepared to contribute to their families and community.

... The citizens of Regina and their children will be the net beneficiaries of a successful attendance Matters® initiative both this year and many years into the future. Help your school divisions and the United Way Regina create resilient, successful youth that will contribute to our collective future."

- Greg Enion, Director of Education,



A poster titled 'attendance MATTERS' with a red 'A' logo. The main heading is 'When Do Absences Become a Problem?'. It features three categories: 'CHRONIC ABSENCE' (18 or more days) with a red apple icon, 'WARNING SIGNS' (10 to 17 days) with an orange icon, and 'GOOD ATTENDANCE' (9 or fewer absences) with a green apple icon. A note states: 'Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.' At the bottom, there are logos for United Way Regina and Regina Public Schools, along with the text '©2013 Reach Out and Read, Inc. All rights reserved. ATT1PC_09/11'.

- ✓ School **success** goes hand in hand with good attendance.
- ✓ Make a **commitment** to have your child attend every day and to be on time.
- ✓ Children who attend every day are building **positive** habits that last a lifetime.
- ✓ Students who attend school are more **engaged** in their learning and are more likely to **graduate**.
- ✓ Students who attend daily feel **connected** academically and socially.
- ✓ Students who attend daily impact the **achievement** of all students in their class and can help to build a positive **school culture**.

Did you know?

- If your child misses half a day a week in one school year, he/she will miss the equivalent of one month of school and learning.
- If your child misses one day a week in one school year, he/she will miss two months of school and learning.

Regina Public Schools

1600 4th Avenue
Regina, SK
S4R 8C8

Phone: 306523-3000
Fax: 306-523-3108
Web: www.rbe.sk.ca



Information Regarding Extended Student Absences due to Family Holidays or Visits to Home Communities

For High School Students

Context

At times, families choose to take family holidays or visit home communities during the school year, outside of regular holidays. This brochure is intended for those situations where a family will remove students from classes for 20 or fewer consecutive days.

Knowing attendance is a strong predictor of academic achievement, the intent of this brochure is to support families, students, and schools understand their individual and collective responsibilities for supporting student learning.

What follows is developed from a feedback process collected from parents, teachers and administrators.

“Parents need to consider/balance whether or not extended absences are worth the time away. Parents need to keep the school informed of the time away, and ideally would understand both the importance of attending school and the need for the student to 'make up the time' through home-based learning. Extended absences are best kept to an essential minimum, meaning that the absences should be under special circumstances only and not a regular occurrence.” (An RPS parent)

Parents' Responsibility

1. Communication with the school prior to the absence is vital. At least 2 weeks notice is recommended.
 2. In cases, where the student will be away from school for over 20 days, the student will be unregistered from the school and will need to be re-registered upon return.
 3. Understand that teachers will support the student's learning, but it is impossible to replicate missed time and missed work.
 4. Where assignments/work is provided, parents will ensure that students complete the work and return it to the teacher upon their return to school.
 5. Understand that teachers will reasonably provide work for students. However, given the complexity of student learning, teachers are not able to predict with absolute accuracy the amount of learning that will take place during an absence.
 6. Given the above, there may be additional assignments/work that students will need to complete upon their return to school. Parents will work with the teacher to ensure that students complete and submit this work in a reasonable time.
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Students' Responsibility

1. Where work is provided, students will ensure that it is completed and returned to the teacher upon the student's return to school.
2. Where required, students will complete additional assignments upon return as they relate directly to outcome attainment.

School's Responsibility

1. Discuss with the family how the child's learning can be continuous through the absence.
2. Provide a reasonable amount of work for student to complete during the absence.
3. Upon the student's return, develop a plan with the family to ensure that the child can demonstrate mastery of outcomes missed during the absence.