

School Attendance

in Pembina Trails School Division



Attending School

Daily school attendance is important for all students. Students who attend school regularly are more engaged in learning, have a greater sense of belonging and are more likely to obtain a high school diploma. If good attendance habits are not developed in the early years, by middle and senior years absenteeism becomes greater, academic achievement is lower and high school graduation becomes less likely.

Attendance Requirements

Under Manitoba's Public Schools Act, children are required to attend school from the time they reach compulsory school age (7 years of age by December 31 in a given calendar year) until they attain the age of 18.

Every parent of a child of compulsory school age is responsible for sending their child to school regularly. Every student is responsible for attending school and classes regularly and on time and completing assignments and other related work.

Absences

Any time that a student is not in class or not participating in a school activity while not being on suspension/expulsion.

- **Excused Absence** – refers to any time that a student is not present in class or not participating in a school sanctioned activity (while not being on suspension/expulsion) with the mutual consent of the school principal and the parent.
- **Unexcused Absence** – refers to any time a student is not present in class or not participating in a school sanctioned activity (while not being on suspension/expulsion) without the mutual consent of the school principal and the parent.



Absenteeism

As per Manitoba's **Action Plan to Enhance Student Presence and Engagement**, Chronic Absenteeism is where unexcused absences account for 10 or more classes in a single high school course or 10 percent or more of instructional days in Kindergarten to Grade 8 in a reporting period. Severe Chronic Absenteeism is where unexcused absences account for 20 or more classes in a single high school course or 20 percent or more of instructional days in Kindergarten to Grade 8 in a reporting period.

Every Day Counts! 1 or 2 days a week might not seem like a lot, but...

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	From Kindergarten-Grade 12, that's...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years of school
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years of school
2 days per week	70 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of school
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

How about being late for school?

They are only...	That equals...	Which is...	From Kindergarten-Grade 12, that's...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years of school
20 minutes per day	1 hour and 40 minutes per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 minutes per day	.5 of a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years

Statement: Attendance Matters! Together Parents/Guardians/Caregivers and School Teams can help all students attend school – Every day!