



POLICY 5250

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

POLICY:

It is important for students to regularly attend school and for school staff to maintain regular contact with students enrolled at school. Absent students miss valuable course work, instruction, and the continuity required to keep pace with the expectations leading to successful completion of school. There is abundant research to conclude that chronic or repeated absence from school, even as early as the primary grades, can be a predictor of poor outcomes during a student's graduation program.

With respect to the *School Act of BC* Part 6, Section 2, a student must participate in the educational program as directed by the Board of Education or the Principal of the school. Regular attendance at school is a requirement to satisfy this legislative requirement. Additionally, as set forth in Part 7 of *the Act*, guardians are to be kept well informed of a student's attendance record at school.

Upon enrollment and at the beginning of each school year, schools shall inform students, as well as their guardians and care givers, of:

- the expectation that students attend school;
- the benefits of regular school attendance;
- the impact of absenteeism on learning;
- the role and responsibility of the district in regard to absenteeism,
- resources available to assist the student and their parents and caregivers in supporting regular and consistent attendance at school.

Schools will establish an attendance protocol for responding to students who are chronically absent and review this protocol annually. The school will also make attendance protocols and resource information available online.