

## Better Off in School

### Encouraging students to regularly attend school for academic success

The importance of regular school attendance cannot be overstated. School attendance serves as a fundamental indicator of students' academic success and engagement.

The following information highlights the significance of regular school attendance—especially during the month of September—and its impact on students, their peers and the overall educational environment.

#### 1. Early Indicator of Success:

- School attendance is an important indicator of academic success.
- Consistent attendance during the month of September is a strong indicator of attendance for the entire school year.

#### 2. Strong Start, Strong Year:

- Starting the school year with consistent attendance, especially during the month of September, leads to higher engagement throughout the academic year.
- Missing just two to four days in September increases the likelihood of chronic absenteeism, negatively affecting graduation rates.

#### 3. Long-Term Impact:

- Chronic absenteeism, which is defined as missing more than 10 per cent of school days, is associated with poor performance, lower graduation rates and long-term negative outcomes.
- High absentee rates are an early sign of disengagement and have adverse academic consequences.
- Chronic absenteeism in early grades delays reading proficiency, leading to academic struggles in later years.
- Chronic absenteeism is a stronger indicator of potential dropout than test scores.

#### 4. Negative Impact on Others:

- Lack of school attendance can negatively impact not only students who are frequently absent but also their peers.
- Teachers must adapt classroom instructions to accommodate absent students, which can hinder the overall learning experience for other students in the classroom.

#### 5. Post-Pandemic Challenges:

- The COVID-19 pandemic led to a significant drop in school attendance worldwide, including Nova Scotia.
- While in-person learning has resumed, attendance recovered but is still below pre-pandemic norms.

## 6. Collaborative Efforts:

- Encouraging regular school attendance requires the collective support of parents, families, teachers and administrators.
- Raising awareness about the importance of consistent attendance empowers almost everyone to provide the necessary support to students.

Regular school attendance is a critical foundation for academic achievement and future success. By understanding the widespread effects of absenteeism and working together to support students, families and educators, we can ensure that students have the best possible chance to excel in their education and beyond.

### Resources for parents and families:

- [Tips for Families to Support School Attendance](#)
- [Tips for Parents for Improving Attendance](#)

### About Public School Administrators Association of Nova Scotia

The Public School Administrators Association of Nova Scotia (PSAANS) is membership association of educational leaders. It empowers educational administrators, through collaborative professionalism.

The Association promotes and encourages student and teaching excellence within the public school system of Nova Scotia, while promoting the common interests of educational administrators. It also enhances effective leadership that promotes the recruitment and retention of educational leaders.

PSAANS is building strong systems and strong schools where staff and student success are the priorities. Visit [psaans.ca](http://psaans.ca) to learn more.