

What does the Education Act say?

(From Section 27)

Every student, aged 6 – 16 years of age, shall attend a school program regularly and punctually during the academic year.

A parent shall ensure, to the best of his or her ability, that their child attends.

Parents who do not comply with the attendance expectations can be held legally responsible.

Acceptable reasons for a child to be absent include:

- Sickness, reported to the principal
- Participation in traditional activities, with approval of the principal
- Participation in spiritual or religious observance,

For each of these excused absences, the student will be required to complete work missed.

For more help:

- Contact your child's school.
- Talk to other parents.
- Contact services at *Tlicho Community Services Agency*



**Tlicho
Community Services Agency**

Rae Edzo, NT
Phone: 867 392-3000
Fax: 867 392-3001
Email:

**Tlicho
Community Services Agency**

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The Cost of Missing School

Children lose five million days of their education each year through playing truant without the knowledge of their parents or through days off school taken with their parent's blessing. Missing two weeks of term time in each year of a child's school life is the same as missing one whole school year. Students who are frequently away from school fall behind their peers and require increased "catch-up" time. Unfortunately, they will never be able to acquire the important in-class elements of participating in the lesson.

Absenteeism is detrimental to student grades and achievement; this can lead to other problems such as student frustration, inappropriate behaviour and low self-esteem. Frequent absenteeism in the early grades is a predictor of truancy in high school. Truancy is linked to dropping out of school, a failure to graduate, youth crime and reduced employment opportunities. Students who attend regularly acquire important life habits such as dependability, self-sufficiency and responsibility.

What Can Parents Do?

Parents have the primary responsibility in making sure that their children attend school regularly, and on time, right from the start.

- ◆ The more you value school, the more your child will too. Talk to your child about her progress and celebrate her school success.
- ◆ Don't allow your child to miss school for trivial reasons. The education of youth is far too important to be put in second place.
- ◆ Listen to your child. There may be different reasons why they are reluctant to come to school.
- ◆ Seek help as soon as you realize there is a problem. Children who miss school lose out on future opportunities and run the risk of getting involved in harmful behaviour.
- ◆ Talk to the school whenever you need to take your child out of school. Keeping communication open is important.
- ◆ Develop a daily schedule and stick to it. Encourage your child to have a healthy lifestyle, including going to bed early and getting up for school on time
- ◆ Limit television viewing on school nights.
- ◆ Take an active interest in your child's work. If a child tells you they are bored at school, ask to meet with their teachers.

What if ... ?

What if parents want to take their child on an extended family trip during the school year?

Remember that you should not expect your child's school to agree to a family trip during term time. Always talk to the school before you book your holiday and work with the school to minimize any effect on your child's education.

What if parents want to take their child out on-the-land?

On-the-land experiences are valuable for students of all ages. It is important that parents discuss their trip with the teacher prior to leaving so that the student can be provided with work and/or alternative assignments.

What if the child has a medical appointment?

If at all possible, try to schedule appointments before or after school time. Try to communicate with the teacher at least the day before so that the student can be given missed work.

Open communication with your child's teachers and school is the key.

**TLICHO
COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY**

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