



Linking Community To Achieve Regular Attendance

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It is a belief that learning occurs in many settings, not just schools. Schools alone cannot do all that is needed to help children and youth achieve success in their lives. The collaboration and engagement of families, community members, organizations, teachers, and students to build a leaning community is the cornerstone of education.

Saskatchewan Learning – *What is Community Education?*

Attendance Facts

- Absenteeism causes major losses in educational achievement.
- Unemployment and under employment are common problems faced by dropouts.
- Absenteeism results in poor performance on tests.
- Absenteeism contributes to a higher dropout rate, delinquency, and vandalism.

Attendance Facts

- Absent pupils often become involved in daylight crime.
- Attendance is best when students are involved in school programs in which they can succeed
- Absenteeism raises the cost per student for education.
- Older children in a family frequently set attendance patterns for younger brothers and sisters.
- Absence patterns are established as early as kindergarten.

Attendance Facts

- "Poor attendance is a major indicator of gradual alienation and disengagement, and may lead to a student dropping out permanently."

Schwartz 1995

- "Students with chronically unexcused absences are at risk for having more serious behavioural issues such as substance abuse, involvement in criminal activity, and incarceration."

Baker, Sigmon, & Nugent 2001

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How?

*If you do what you always have done,
you will get what you always have got*
- Peter Bender

*The significant problems we face
cannot be solved at the same level of
thinking we were at when we created
them.*

- Albert Einstein



Community Planning Process

 Create the Vision

2. Assess the Current Situation

Community Engagement Process



Community Planning Process



Set Goals and Objectives

1) To increase the regular attendance percentages in each grade

By June 2008, all grades will improve the percentage of absences by 5%.

2) To increase the awareness within the community about the importance of regular school attendance

By June 2008, all weekly newsletters and staff memos will have included relevant information about the importance of regular school attendance.





3) To develop an attendance policy that further supports the students, parents, grandparents and staff in achieving improved attendance percentages.

By June 2008, St. Michael Community School will have developed a school attendance policy will outlines a strategic and supportive plan in responding to students/families who find it difficult to attend school on a regular basis

Community Planning Process

Develop Action Plan

Learning Improvement Plan

goals, strategies, lead responsibility, timeline, resources, performance indicators, monitoring plan, CSCC support and results

Implement the Plan



Attendance Initiatives

Most Improved Student
Most Improved Family
Best Attendance Classroom
Weekly Assemblies
Perfect Attendance
No Lates



Building Community Awareness

School Community Council
Student Posters
Classroom Talking Circles
Newsletter inserts
Weekly Assemblies



~~Top Ten Reasons To Go To School.~~ 10

1. You Will Get Smart!
 2. Friends!
 3. Sports!
 4. After School Activities!
 5. A Place To Play and Have Fun!
 6. Stuff To Do!
 7. Art's and Crafts!
 8. Field Trips!
 9. Free Food!
 10. Fun School Subjects
- 10
10
10
10
10

Sharing Our Stories

Elders

Parent

Grandparent

Community

Tim Hortons

Resource Officer



Student Mentoring

Relationship building for students who find it difficult to attend regularly



St. Michael Community School
Attendance Improvement Toolkit



Putting the Pieces Together

Connie Tenaski

Community Planning Process

Evaluate Progress and Results

Review of the Learning Improvement Plan in June

School Community Council Feedback

Student, Staff and Family Feedback

Analysis of Student Absence Reports



A Puzzle in Progress . . .



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Questions

School:

Don't choose a dead end
Attend!



Children and Young People's Services

0116 221 1260

www.leicester.gov.uk/attendance



Leicester
City Council