

Student Attendance and Engagement Policy Reinstatement of Suspension and Loss of Credit Provisions

The *Student Attendance and Engagement Policy* has been in effect since October 1, 2017. The policy aims to identify and address absenteeism before it becomes a problem for students through early and targeted interventions. The purpose of this release is to advise that the policy will be fully reinstated as of **September 1, 2023**.

In September of 2020, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development issued [*Policy and Information Release: Provincial Student Attendance and Engagement Policy – Suspension of Loss of Credit Decisions*](#) amending the policy direction set out in the *Student Attendance and Engagement Policy*. Specifically, these amendments included:

- a temporary suspension of Section 5.4, Loss of Credit for Grades 10 to 12, as outlined in the *Student Attendance and Engagement Policy*;
- direction with respect to attendance incentives that may have been in place; and
- a reminder about encouraging students to follow public health directives that may affect their attendance.

The amendments were made in collaboration with the Department of Health and Wellness (Public Health) to help more effectively navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Now that COVID-19 is no longer considered a public health emergency, all policy directives set out in the *Student Attendance and Engagement Policy* will be reinstated. Teachers and administrators have advised throughout this past school year that the education system is ready for full reinstatement of the policy.

Throughout the pandemic, we learned lessons that should continue to be carried forward when making decisions around attendance. Minor amendments to the policy will reflect the need for students to engage in healthy habits and remain at home if they are feeling unwell. As always, schools and RCEs/CSAP will work with families to ensure that students' ongoing learning and well-being continues to be supported if they are absent due to medical reasons.

Original signed by

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