



# Suggested Activities for Promoting Attendance and Arriving on Time

## Activities with school staff

- Share current information from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development website below.
- Add *Attendance Discussions* to staff meetings as a regular piece for reviewing efforts, monitoring progress and problem-solving.
- Use attendance data from previous years to identify students at risk of poor attendance who have previously struggled with attendance issues. Monitor and engage these students and their families to identify the reasons for the absences and connect them with the right supports. It may be helpful to identify these supports at your Program Planning Meetings.
- If you are concerned about a student with chronic attendance issues and your school does not have an Attendance Support Worker, identify a trusted adult who can talk with that student or family.

## Activities with students

- Invite classrooms or a small group (students who are representative of the school population) to create signs, posters, videos, and/or announcements about the importance of good attendance and being on time for class. Share them at assemblies, school concerts, parent-teacher meetings, school orientation, etc.
- If you have daily announcements, end them with your attendance slogan.
- Discuss the importance of school attendance at assemblies.
- Keep the focus on attendance fresh by updating posters, messages, and announcements from time to time.

## Activities with families

- Talk to your School Advisory Council, talk with parents during orientation, etc., about the new attendance initiative.
- If you have Primary Registration or Pre-primary Screenings at your school, share [Student Attendance Matters](#).
- At the beginning of the year, provide all families with relevant information about the importance of good attendance, and how your school will be a support if the number of absences becomes a concern.
- Post start and end times of classes on the entry doors for students and families to see, as well as in newsletters and other school to home communication.

*"Schools that conducted a greater total number of attendance-focused activities were more likely to decrease the percentage of students who missed twenty or more days of school each year."* Sheldon, S. B., & Epstein, J. L. (2004).

Further information can be found at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development website:  
[www.ednet.ns.ca/student-attendance-and-engagement-policy](http://www.ednet.ns.ca/student-attendance-and-engagement-policy)

