



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Northern Cass School District is making a special effort to ensure that all learners fully benefit from their education by attending school regularly. Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves. Consistent attendance will help learners be choice ready in college, career, or military.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences (excused and unexcused) can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing just 10 percent of school days (or about 18 days) increases the chance that your learner will not read or master math at the same level as their peers. Learners can still fall behind if they are tardy or miss just a day or two every few weeks.
- By being present at school, your child learns valuable social skills and has the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with other learners and school staff.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, regular attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

We miss your child(ren) when they are gone and we value their contributions to our school. We need your help to ensure your child attends regularly in order to be successful in school.

- Ensure your child is in school and on time each day.
- Read and understand the attendance policy for your child, available on the Northern Cass website.
 - ***Note: elementary and secondary learners have different attendance policies.***
- If your child is going to be absent, please contact the office at 701-874-2322 or email at attendance@northerncassschool.org the morning of the absence. You can also notify the office in advance if you know your child will be absent in the future.
- If your child will miss an extended amount of school time, you must work with their educator/s to ensure they do not fall behind.

OUR PROMISE TO YOU

- We promise to track attendance daily, to notice when your child is missing from class, communicate with you to understand why they were absent, and to assist you in helping your child attend school regularly.
- We know there are a variety of reasons children are absent from school and we are here to help. If your child is struggling with attendance, please contact the Dean of Learners or your Principal and we will provide assistance.
- We promise to talk with you about attendance concerns *before* they become a barrier to your child's education.

PLEASE REVIEW BACK PAGE



NORTHERN CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT ATTENDANCE FORM

This form must be on file including your signature, annually. You may do this via online registration each year or print, sign and return this form to the school, thank you.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Talk to your child about the importance of attendance.
- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Prepare for school the night before, finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Encourage your child to go to school unless they are truly sick.
- Avoid appointments and extended trips when school is in session. Try to schedule these during monthly professional learning days.
- Keep track of your child's attendance in Powerschool.
- Talk to your child's educator if you notice sudden changes in behavior (e.g. stomach or headaches in the morning). These could be linked to something going on at school but should not keep you learner away. Northern Cass is here to help!
- Let us know if you are struggling to get your learner to school as we can work together to develop a plan.

SCHOOL POLICIES AND STATE LAWS

It is important that you understand our school policies and procedures, as well as North Dakota State Law, to ensure your child is successful in school.

State law for mandatory attendance for **Truancy/Unexcused Absences**: Children under the age of 16, along with their families, will be held accountable for attendance in accordance with North Dakota Century Code. The Northern Cass School District must cooperate fully with social services and juvenile court in reporting truancy.

We, the school, are required to take daily attendance and notify you when your child has an unexcused absence. You will receive a call if your child has more than seven tardies or absences per semester to work together to identify the barriers and supports available to ensure regular attendance. If your child has 7 tardies or absences, you will receive a letter to schedule a conference with you and your child. We will work together to determine how to best meet the needs of your child and reduce absenteeism.

Northern Cass has developed an Attendance FAQ document located on the Northern Cass website. If you have any questions or concerns about the attendance policy, please contact the Dean of Learners or your Principal.

Thank you for helping us create a safe, welcoming school environment for all learners in our district!

Please take time to read and understand Northern Cass School District's attendance policies.