

The SSDEC believes that regular classroom attendance at school is an important prerequisite for student achievement and a student's eligibility for course and/or grade credit. This policy is adopted in order to affirm that responsibility for attendance lies with the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s). Adult students will be contacted and dealt with individually.

- 1) The Education Act provides for excusable absence from classroom attendance generally for the following reasons:
 - a) A student is unable to attend because of sickness or other unavoidable cause that has been reported to the Principal.
 - b) A student is absent on a day regarded as a holy day by the religious denomination to which the student belongs.
 - c) The student has been suspended, expelled or excused from attending school by the proper school official.
 - d) In the opinion of the Superintendent or his/her designate, the student is receiving adequate instruction elsewhere such as home schooling or a private school.
 - e) The Principal of the school, after consultation with the parent(s)/guardian(s) has excused the student from attending school for a period of time that the Principal may direct in order to allow the student to participate in traditional aboriginal activities on the land or other learning experiences away from the school.

- 2) Additionally, the Council provides for sanctioned absence from classroom attendance, at Principal discretion, for the purpose of competing in Arctic Winter Games and other non-school sponsored territorial level extra-curricular activities.

REGULATIONS

Absences other than for the above reasons are inexcusable absences and will be dealt with in the following manner:

1. Where there is reason to believe that a student's absence is inexcusable the student and his parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted and so informed by the principal or their designate.

2. If the student has been determined to be inexcusably absent:
 - a. The teacher of that student will not be required to tutor the student in work missed or to set up labs which have been missed, although the student will have the right to submit missed work or assigned work for marking toward credit within a reasonable period of time as predetermined by the teacher or Principal and student.
 - b. The teacher will not be required to provide a re-write.
 - c. The Principal shall follow due process in accordance with the Authority's disciplinary policies, which include expressing concern to the student and parent(s)/guardian(s), counselling the student, probation, suspension and/or recommendation for expulsion

- upon recurrence of inexcusable absences.
- d. Students who are inexcusably absent for 20% or more of the time shall be identified during a class review and/or referred to the school-based support team and appropriate intervention will be put into place.

Notwithstanding the above, where a senior high school student has excusable and inexcusable absences totalling fourteen (14) days in a 5-credit course or equivalent, or eight (8) school days in a 3-credit course or equivalent, unless otherwise recommended by the Principal and School Counsellor, the student may be withdrawn from the course or may not be eligible to write the final exam and/or obtain credit for the course. Schools will follow the appeal provisions as outlined in the Education Act for students who are withdrawn from credit courses.

A student who has been declared ineligible to write the final examination and/or obtain credit for the course as a result of the above shall be informed of his/her right to appeal in writing such ineligibility within 5 days to the Principal.

Notwithstanding the above, the Principal shall exercise discretion regarding vacation leaves and/or instances where by way of ill health or unforeseen circumstances the student has accumulated absences beyond the above limits.

Reference: Education Act, s. 27 & s. 28
Education Act Regulation *Academic Year and School Attendance Regulations*
Date: February 1995
Amended: October 2002
November 2018