

NEWS RELEASE

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Board Chair Encourages Student Attendance and Family Engagement

Goronwy Price, Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District, is encouraging parents and guardians to ensure their children attend school and strive for academic excellence. Chair Price recently sent a letter to all families via schools encouraging parents and guardians to play an active role in encouraging school attendance and demonstrating the value of education.

“Research shows that students who attend school and are engaged in classroom activities are more likely to be successful and, in the end, we want all of our students to achieve to the best of their abilities,” said Chair Price. “The intention of the letter to parents and guardians was to ensure they are aware of the issue of school attendance and also remain engaged with their children and their school and encourage the establishment of consistent attendance routine.”

Newfoundland and Labrador English School District data indicates that during the 2016-2017 school year approximately 10% of students totaled 18 or more days of unexcused absences. Excused absences, and days lost to weather or facilities matters are not included in these numbers and when combined can mean a significant amount of lost instructional time. Chair Price believes that starting early and instilling the importance of education in students is critical.

“While data shows attendance issues are more noticeable in intermediate and high school students, attendance patterns are established as early as Kindergarten. Given this information, the sooner we can instill the value of school attendance, the more likely your children will be to consistently attend school,” wrote Price.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to model behaviour which values education and to become engaged in their children’s education. “This can be done as simply as asking them about their day and the activities that occurred in school. The behaviours we model as adults make a difference and ensure our students remain engaged and attend school.”

Parents and guardians are also encouraged to remain in contact with their children’s teachers and the school administration. Any parent or guardian that would like to learn more about how to become or stay engaged is encouraged to contact their school.

The letter from Chair Price is attached.

The Board of Trustees for the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District is composed of 17 elected trustees, responsible for the governance of 66,300 students and 10,000 employees.



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