

SCHOOLS ACT (1997)

Compulsory Attendance

A Person who

- (a) is entitled under subsection 3(1) to an education program in a school year;
 - (b) on December 31 in a school year is 6 years of age or older; and
 - (c) on September 1 in a school year is younger than 16 years of age shall attend a school for the entire school year.
- (2) A student enrolled with a board, unless otherwise permitted under this Act or by the board, shall attend the school that the board directs.
- (3) A board shall admit to a school at the beginning of the school year all children who are under the jurisdiction of the board who are 5 years of age before January 1 in that school year.
- (4) A board shall establish kindergarten classes in its schools for children who are 5 years of age before January 1 in a school year.

Excused from Attendance

5. Notwithstanding section 4, a student is excused from attending a school where the student,
- (a) is unable to attend school by reason of illness or other unavoidable cause and the **teacher is advised of it**, but the principal may require that the illness be certified by a medical practitioner; has been expelled or suspended from the school under this act;
 - (b) with the prior written approval of the director, is under instruction satisfactory to the director, at home or elsewhere, for a period specified by the director;
 - (c) has the written permission of the principal to be absent from school for a reasonable period because, in the opinion of the principal and in accordance with the policy of the board, the student will be exposed to other experiences of significant educational and social value;
 - (d) is absent for another reason that in the opinion of the principal does not constitute neglect or refusal to attend school under this act; or
 - (e) has successfully completed the requirements for senior high school graduation.

ATTENDANCE CODES USED AT ERIC G. LAMBERT SCHOOL

The following codes are to be used for the recording of student absences:

- For absence due to participation in school sponsored activity** (Sports, Performing Arts, Student Leadership, Field Trips).....T
(This code must be used when the child is absent from school because he/she is involved in a school sponsored activity, under the supervision of school personnel. This would include such events as tournaments, school tours, field trips, etc. It is necessary to record all instances of this code for the daily register and the monthly attendance statistics.)
- For absence due to home schooling**.....H
(This code is to be used for those children being schooled at home. In this instance, the child is to be placed on the register of the class in which the child would have been enrolled had he/she been in regular instruction in the school. The teacher responsible for that class must record daily attendance for the child and include him/her in monthly attendance reports as indicated on the Teacher's Monthly Attendance Report.)
- For absence due to illness**.....S
- For absence due to other unavoidable cause** (court, medical travel, orthodontist visits, death/sickness in family).....O
(This code is to be used when, in the opinion of the principal, the absence was unavoidable.)
- For absence due to weather** (flight cancellation, roads closed, high wind chill).....W
(This code is to be used when the child is absent from school because of weather and the school is open for classes on that day.)
- For absence due to suspension**.....X
- For absence with written permission from the principal** (Encounters With Canada, Forum For Young Canadians).....P
- For absence due to any reason that, in the opinion of the principal, does not constitute neglect or refusal**.....E
(This code is to be used when the child is absent for any reason that, in the opinion of the principal, does not constitute neglect or refusal of the parents/guardians to cause the child to attend school. It is to be used for instances when the parent/guardians have a valid reason for the child to be absent from school.) (Minor Hockey, NLVA Tournaments, Winter Games, RCM Exams, Interviews,(e.g.ROTP, CAF), extended holiday travel.)
- For unexcused absence** (other reasons or no explanation provided).....A