

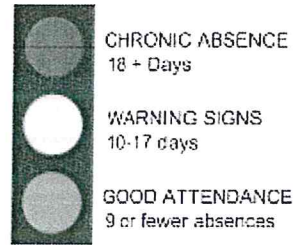
## Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

Parents and guardians have the greatest influence on a child's learning. By working together, schools and families can help ensure that each child has a positive and successful school experience.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school starting as early as Kindergarten
- Missing 10% (about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read & write
- Students can fall behind if they miss just a day or more every few weeks
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance

### When do absences become a problem?



Note: these numbers are based on a 180-day school year

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SUPPORT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



#### Point out the positive

- Presenting school as fun, exciting and important
- Engage in your child's learning; take interest in what they are working on
- Display your child's art work and schoolwork with pride



#### Set a routine

- Develop a set bedtime and morning routine
- Create a consistent space to store items such as backpacks so they are easy to find
- Set aside time each day to discuss the school day



#### Plan ahead

- Lay clothes out, pack backpacks and make lunches the night before- encourage your child to help!



#### Encourage attendance

- Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick
- Have a backup person planned to help get your child to school if something comes up
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session
- Report all absences to the school according to the school's safe arrival policy

If you have concerns about your child's attendance, speak to your child's teacher or principal who can connect you with school supports.

Self-care is essential to everyone's wellness. Help everyone in your family to:

- Eat healthy food • Get enough sleep • Do things they enjoy • Exercise regularly • Spend time outdoors

# Parent guide to SchoolMessenger: Setting your preferences



Have you recently been receiving a lot of messages from the school or school board?

Using the **SchoolMessenger app** or website, parents can determine how they would like to receive messages via any combination of:



**Phone**  
(home, cell or both)



**Email**



**Text**



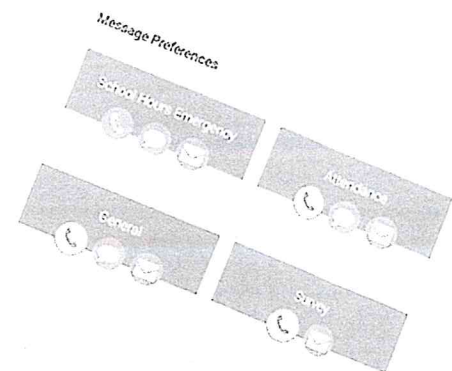
**SchoolMessenger  
app/website**

For each of the following message types:

- **Attendance**
- **Commercial** (school yearbook, lunches)
- **General** (message from principal)
- **Non-School Hours Emergency**
- **School Hours Emergency**
- **Survey**
- **Teacher Messaging**

**Follow the steps below to create an account and set your preferences:**

1. **Download the *SchoolMessenger app***, or visit [go.schoolmessenger.ca](http://go.schoolmessenger.ca).
2. **Create an account** (preferably using the email address you have on file with your child's school).
3. Once you are logged in, go to **Preferences** on the left-hand menu and turn on/off phone, text, or email for each message type.



## Good to know:

- The phone number registered at your child's school will be used for any School Hours Emergency and/or Non-School Hours Emergency communications.
- All messages will be delivered to your account in the **SchoolMessenger app**/website. If you wish to receive messages on the app only, you can turn off phone, text, and email options for all message types.

If you have any questions please call 1-800-920-3897, or email [support@schoolmessenger.com](mailto:support@schoolmessenger.com).