

## Keep Your Teen on Track in Secondary School:

Even as teens grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure teens participate or get to school safely every day.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Absences can be a sign that a teen is losing interest, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other difficulty.
- By Year 6, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of secondary school.
- Missing 10% (just 2 days each month) can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your teen keep a job and complete college.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

#### Communicate with the School

- **Contact your teen's teachers** and let them know how to reach you.
- **Request a timetable** and log in information for your student.
- **Ask for help** from the school, after-school program providers, other parents or community agencies if you're having trouble getting online or need help with food, housing or some other challenge.
- **Know the school's attendance policy** and the consequences for absences.
- **Check on your teen's attendance** to make sure they are attending all of their classes.

#### Make School Attendance a Priority

- **Talk about the importance of showing up** to school every day so your teen knows this is your expectation
- **Encourage your student to maintain daily routines**, such as finishing homework or getting a good night's sleep.
- **Avoid scheduling non-urgent dental and medical appointments** when classes are in session.
- **Post your teen's timetable** and log in information in a visible location, such as on the refrigerator or teen desk.
- **Identify a quiet place for your student to participate in class and do school work.** Or ask your school or community agencies if they have created places for learning. If you have more than one child, make a schedule.

#### Help Your Child Stay Healthy and Engaged

- **Make sure your teen is up to date with immunisations or medical treatment where necessary.**
- **Find out if your teen feels safe.** Make sure that school behavioural policies don't lead to your teen becoming disengaged or feeling pushed out of school. If there are problems, work with your school to find a solution.
- **Check in weekly** about your teen's academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors.
- **Stay on top of your teen's social contacts.** Peer pressure can lead to skipping class. Teens who have a hard time making friends can feel isolated.