



*Mission - We inspire and support each learner to thrive in a caring learning environment*

## INFORMATION TO SHARE WITH SCHOOL FAMILIES / PARENTS / GUARDIANS

### Reporting Student Absences and Late Arrivals

Over the past year, SD8 has offered [SchoolMessenger - SafeArrival](#) as a district-wide tool for families to report student absences and late arrivals. Many families have already made the switch to using SafeArrival.

During this transition, absence and late reporting forms on school websites remained available. With SafeArrival now fully implemented and supported across the district, SD8 is ready to complete the move to one consistent system for all schools.

As a result, **school website absence and late reporting forms will be retired at the end of the school day on Friday, February 6.**

Going forward, families can report absences and late arrivals using SchoolMessenger - SafeArrival through the SchoolMessenger app, online, or by phone. The app is optional.

Using one system helps schools confirm students are safe, keeps attendance records accurate, and supports timely follow-up when students are unexpectedly absent.

To sign up or find out more, [visit the SD8 School Messenger page](#).

### Why Encourage Your Children and Teens to Attend School Each Day?

#### It is More Important Than Many People Think

We all know that attending school is critical to students' success in their classes. But did you know that helping your children and teens attend school does much, much more?

- ▶ By attending school regularly, your children are learning to plan and follow routines, which can help students feel more secure, confident, and competent.
- ▶ Getting into the practice of arriving at school on-time is building lifelong skills. It helps develop good habits that children and teens can use throughout their education, into their careers, and throughout their lives.
- ▶ Making an effort to arrive at school on-time each day improves students' organizational skills.

It helps students think about:

- how they can prepare ahead (such as getting organized the night before).
- how important it is to go to bed on time, so they can get up in the morning feeling ready for the day.
- time management - paying attention to the clock and planning how long it will take to complete their morning routine.

What can you do?

- Talk to your children and teens about the importance of regular attendance and arriving on time
- Set a reasonable bed time and check to make sure everyone is getting up in time each morning
- Help your children plan to have things ready ahead (such as organizing back packs and lunches the night before) Our lives get busy and it is sometimes hard to stay on top of everything we have to do. But helping your children and teens learn how to attend school regularly and on time will have positive and lasting benefits. And it might make mornings a little less stressful for you, as well.

**Family Engagement Sessions (virtual)** - [LINK](#) for all sessions

Attend by ZOOM

Password: parent

**April 9, 2026 - 6:00 pm - Scholarships: What to Expect During Adjudication**

*Review for students and families.*

**DPAC Meetings (virtual)**

Please join us virtually for our next DPAC Meeting!

Find meeting dates, agendas, DPAC contacts and more [here!](#)

*Next meeting is February 19, 2026- hope to see you there!*

**[SD8 News](#)** - catch up on the latest announcements, Board Highlights and news in SD8!

**[Superintendent's Report](#)** - Read the latest blog from Superintendent Smillie to find out what's being celebrated and what is going on around the district this month!