




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

 Remember to check out the [SD8 calendar](#) for important dates and to find out what is going on around the district!

(downloadable/printable version - [2025/2026 School Year](#))

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

### Updated Youth Train in Trades Resources for Families

Have students interested in Youth Train in Trades, Youth Work in Trades, and Trades Sampler (Salmo/Mt. Sentinel cohorts)? We have updated our online resources for families to review:

1. [SD8 Youth Train in Trades](#)
2. [SD8 Youth Work in Trades](#)
3. [SD8 Trades Sampler](#)

### Attendance

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school - and themselves. You can help your children start building this habit early so they learn that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help your children do well in school, post-secondary, and at work.

#### Did you know?

- ▶ By encouraging good attendance, you will make an important difference to the education of your children. Regular attendance is key to educational success.
- ▶ It's understandable that challenges to daily attendance are unavoidable - like illness and urgent appointments. But try not to let absences add up! Studies show that students who miss 18 or more school days each year usually suffer academically!
- ▶ It doesn't matter if absences are excused or unexcused. They all mean lost time in the classroom, and that means a lost opportunity to learn.
- ▶ Attendance matters as early as kindergarten! Studies show that students who attend more in Kindergarten and Grade 1 are less likely to struggle with reading by third grade.
- ▶ Students with good attendance are more likely to graduate from high school.
- ▶ Children who have good attendance rates are less likely to be involved in behaviours that will get them in trouble. Studies show that students who attend school regularly are less likely to break the law and go to jail later in life.
- ▶ Children are safer in school than out on the street.

### **Family Engagement Sessions**

Did you miss a topic that was presented this year?? Check out the [SD8 Family Engagement webpage](#) to view our recorded presentations!

### **DPAC Meetings (virtual)**

Please join us virtually for our next DPAC Meeting!

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

*Next meeting is May 21, 2026 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM PST - 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!