September 26, 2017

Dear BFEC Students, Parents and Guardians:

We all want our students to do their very best. For teachers to help them succeed, students need to be in school. Research shows that poor attendance is linked to poorer student performance.

Employers also want students to learn good work habits, like good attendance, in school so they carry these habits with them into the workplace.

Yet too many students are missing too much school. More than 25 per cent miss more than 16 days each year.

The provincial government has introduced a new student attendance and engagement policy. The policy was created following months of consultation, and advice from a new Council to Improve Classroom Conditions, composed of teachers, as well as a parent and a student representative.

Please take a few minutes to review the new Student Attendance and Engagement Policy and Frequently Asked Questions. You may also be interested in the operational guide to support the policy. Moving forward there will be changes to how absences are recorded in Power School and High School students who are not in class 80% of the time can lose eligibility to earn their credits, even if they are passing the course. These documents can be found on our website at: www.bfec.hrsb.ca. Go to the Our School Link and you will find them under documents and policies.

The provincial policy will come into effect on October 1, 2017, and replace any existing school board or school policy.

Government will review the policy and operational guide at the end of the 2017-18 school year, and make adjustments based on lessons learned and feedback received. You can provide feedback at any time of the year by emailing attendance@novascotia.ca.

As the policy is being implemented, you will receive more information from the school in the coming week. Improving attendance is a team effort, and we look forward to working with students, families, and community partners on attendance and engagement.

Sincerely,

Jenny-Kate Hadley | Principal | Bedford and Forsyth Education Centres | jkhadley@hrsb.ca