



## Update from the Superintendent

To: Parents and Guardians  
From: Mark McQueen, Superintendent  
Date: September 20, 2024

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As we continue to embrace September as Attendance Awareness Month, I want to take a moment to speak directly to our shared commitment to putting the “A” back in Bay. This commitment is rooted in five essential pillars guiding our daily efforts: Accountability, Attendance, Academics, the Arts, and Athletics. Over the next few weeks, I will be sharing more about these pillars and why they are so vital to the success of our students and our district. Today, I want to focus on the pillar of Accountability and its critical role in our journey.

Accountability is more than just a word—it is a fundamental value that permeates every aspect of what we do in Bay District Schools. It is about holding ourselves and each other responsible for meeting the high standards we set for our students, staff, and community. As educators, parents, and guardians, we all play a role in creating an environment where accountability is a shared commitment, ensuring our students receive the best possible education and support.

At its core, accountability in education means being transparent about our goals, actions, and outcomes. It involves setting clear expectations for our students and staff, consistently measuring progress, and taking action when those expectations are unmet. Accountability is not about assigning blame; rather, it is about fostering a culture of continuous improvement, where every community member understands their role in supporting student success and is committed to doing their best.

One way we demonstrate accountability is through regular communication and engagement with our parents and guardians. You are essential partners in your child's education, and we believe in maintaining open lines of communication to ensure you are informed and involved. Whether it is through progress reports, parent-teacher conferences, or our ongoing series of district updates, we want you to feel empowered to support your child's learning and growth.

Accountability also extends to our students. We are committed to providing them with the resources, support, and guidance they need to succeed academically and personally. At the same time, we expect them to take ownership of their learning, attend school regularly, engage in their coursework, and adhere to our behavior standards. By encouraging students to take responsibility for their actions and decisions, we are helping them develop the skills and mindset they need to thrive in school and life.

For our teachers and staff, accountability means delivering high-quality instruction and support every day. It means continuously seeking ways to improve their practices, collaborating with colleagues to share effective strategies, and engaging in professional development to stay current on best practices in education. We believe that our students benefit when our educators are supported and held to high standards.

Accountability is a cornerstone of our commitment to putting the “A” back in Bay. By holding ourselves and each other accountable, we ensure that every student can succeed in a safe, supportive, and high-performing environment. I encourage you to join us in this commitment by staying engaged, supporting your child's education, and reinforcing the importance of responsibility and accountability at home. Together, we can create a brighter future for all of our students.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. Let's continue working together to put the "A" back in Bay.