**Legal Obligation to Attend**

The Education Act refers to regular attendance as both a duty of the pupil and an expectation on the part of parents/guardians to cause regular attendance to take place, except when just cause exists (i.e.: documented illness, emergency, religious holidays, circumstances of a compassionate nature). Section 16(1) of the Education Act states, “A child is not required to attend school if the child:

-is unable to attend school by reason of the child’s sickness or other unavoidable cause,

-is officially excluded from attendance under this Act or the regulations,

-is absent on a day regarded as a holy day by the religious denomination of the child or the parent of the child or,

-in circumstances considered exceptional by the Minister, is exempted from attendance in writing by the Minister.”