

ATA LOCAL 8 May 2026 Memo

May 1, 2026



Important Dates

May 5: Teacher Board Advisory Meeting at Central Office

May 6: Hats on for Mental Health

May 6: Local Executive Meeting

May 6: [Teachers With Disabilities Diversity Equity Network](#)

May 15: PD Day

May 16 - 19: Annual Representatives Assembly (ARA) in Calgary

May 20: AGM and CSR meeting at East Elementary (4:30pm AGM)

May 20: [ATAGSA](#)

May 21: [Racialized Teachers' Circle Diversity Equity Network](#)

May 22: Local Treasurers' Seminar

May 28 - 29: [Council for School Counsellors Conference](#)

May 29: Local Communications and Local Political Engagement Officers' Meeting

May Day Data Drive: Known as the May Day Data Drive, the initiative will engage locals and school representatives in gathering information directly from teachers about the classes they are currently assigned. Teachers are invited to scan the QR code and complete a short survey outlining the size and complexity factors of each of their classes. The process is designed to take only a few minutes to complete. Participants will also have the option of submitting written comments or short videos describing how class size and complexity affect their work and their students. QR codes have been sent to the school representatives, and school codes have been provided as well. Teachers have until May 5th to complete this survey.



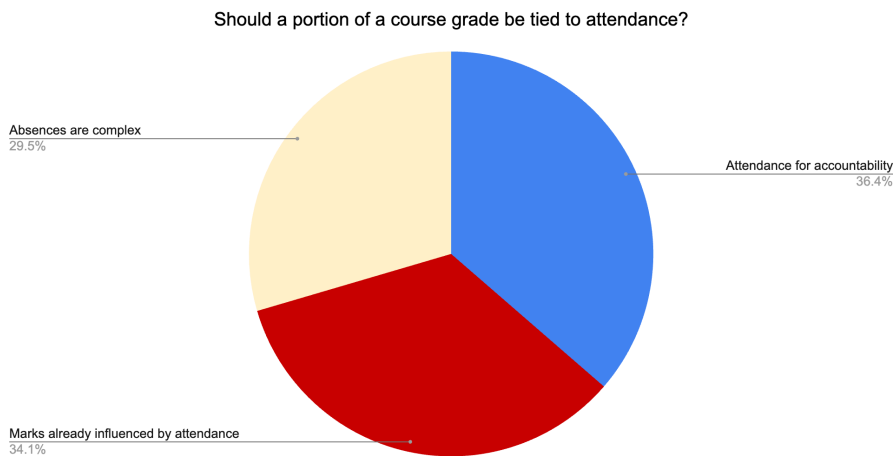
May AGM and CSR: Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on **Wednesday, May 20th at 4:30 pm at East Elementary School (4503 45 Street, Leduc)**. General elections for all positions except for President and Treasurer will take place at this time, as well as any new motions, items, and budget proposals. Please follow our Instagram account as we get closer to the date.



Maternity Session* (A link for the meeting will be sent on May 11th to all who have filled out the form). Our local is organizing a maternity session with our RBA, Jonathan Teghtmeyer. The date is **May 12, 2026**. This will be a virtual session, and the start-up time will be 4:15 pm. If you haven't done so already and would like to join this maternity session, please fill out this form.

Should Grade be Tied to Attendance? Here's where we landed!

In our April memo, we asked for your opinion on the question about tying grades to attendance, as we mentioned in [this article by the CBC](#), "Ontario plans to tie high school attendance to grades and mandate final exams. It's getting mixed reactions". The winner of the draw for placing their vote on this is: **Becky Dupont**.



Here's what some of you had to say:

"All three are true statements. Some families don't make attending a priority, but there are still plenty of viable reasons that prevent students from attending."

"I had a hard time choosing between the first two options. We do currently hold parents accountable & at the hs level will withdraw students from courses after a percentage of absences. Those with significant absences usually do see grades impacted. At the jr high & elementary level there is often no

recourse as students are often pushed on to the next grade regardless of attendance or achievement issues. Teachers & admin have no real consequences to assign to those students with significant absences in grades 1-9. As educators we know the consequences for missing a significant amount of school but families generally do not."

"I would rather find other solutions to supporting students (and families) for inconsistent attendance. It can't be a one size fits all solution as sometimes there are valid reasons like health concerns causing absences."

"I appreciate the value in adding accountability to both students and their families, however, there are complex reasons behind absenteeism, and a clear cut rule wouldn't allow for flexibility within situational context. School divisions within Alberta have done an excellent job of creating and facilitating a variety of delivery methods for students to access learning and support in hopes of overcoming some of the obstacles leading to student absenteeism. It is truly commendable to be part of a profession that continues to strive for improvement from within our education system, despite the continually changing student needs, and consistent realistic funding from our government. Students are blessed by Alberta's educators."

"There needs to be intervention at the higher level for attendance - putting the onus on teachers and grades just adds to our workload. School avoidance starts at home."



Survey says...May Long Weekend

Having something to look forward to, even if it's just time away from the routine of work, can make getting through the days and weeks, far more manageable. With May long weekend around the corner, we want to know what you plan on doing! Participants [in this questionnaire](#) have a chance to win a \$25 gift card of their choice.

April Winner and May Draw

The winner of the April Draw is Jessica Brunnel. Once again, for the May draw, we are giving away a \$50 gift card of your choice! [Please fill out this form.](#)

Retirees: Personal day and \$100

Are you retiring? Did you know ...

As per our ATA Local Policy Handbook,

1. The retiring teacher will receive **one sub day of their choosing, with the sub cost paid by the Local Council.**
2. The Local Council will provide each retiring teacher with a **\$100 cheque as a retirement gift.** The cheque will be distributed in early June. If a teacher retires before the end of June, the Local will distribute the \$100 cheque in the month of retirement. **If you're retiring this school year, please let Carmen Todosychuk**, our treasurer (treasurer.ata8@gmail.com) know so the local can recognize this milestone!

