

POLICY NO: 441**TITLE:** Safe and Caring Schools: A Policy Directive and Action Plan to Enhance Student Presence and Engagement**EFFECTIVE DATE:** March 2024**REVISED DATE:****REVIEW YEAR:**

Policy

Seine River School Division believes that student engagement, well-being, and success are enhanced through proactive and preventative attendance practices. Creating safe, caring, culturally responsive, and inclusive schools through the creation of non-punitive outreach protocols, student-specific planning and coordinated responses within and beyond the school are essential in supporting students remaining engaged and present at school.

Schools and the School Division shall:

1. Create processes to document, monitor, and analyze students' presence and absence.
2. Schools must engage in preventative attendance practices to enhance student engagement, well-being, and success.
3. Prohibit the use of suspensions, expulsion, and withdrawal as a response to absenteeism and include student-specific planning that identifies the student-specific barriers affecting attendance and the strategies in place to respond to the barriers.
4. Create a coordinated response procedure, including restorative practices, which supports the return of students to school.
5. When a school has been unsuccessful in addressing severe chronic absenteeism, the division must notify Manitoba Education's School and Community Support Unit in writing, as well as notify Child and Family Services if there are concerns about student safety and well-being.

Legislative References:

[The Public Schools Act](#)

[The Education Administration Act](#)

[Manitoba Human Rights Code](#)

[The Protecting and Supporting Children \(Information Sharing\) Act](#)

[The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#)