

ONECA

POLICY DEVELOPMENT: STUDENT CONCERNS (ABSENTEEISM)+

Land Acknowledgement

Robinson Huron Treaty Territory

Traditional Territory Anishnaabeg

Garden River, Batchawana First Nations as well as the Metis

Purpose & Delivery Plan

Engage in conversation regarding students concerns (absenteeism) (other)

How to address concerns (before its too late)

WHY

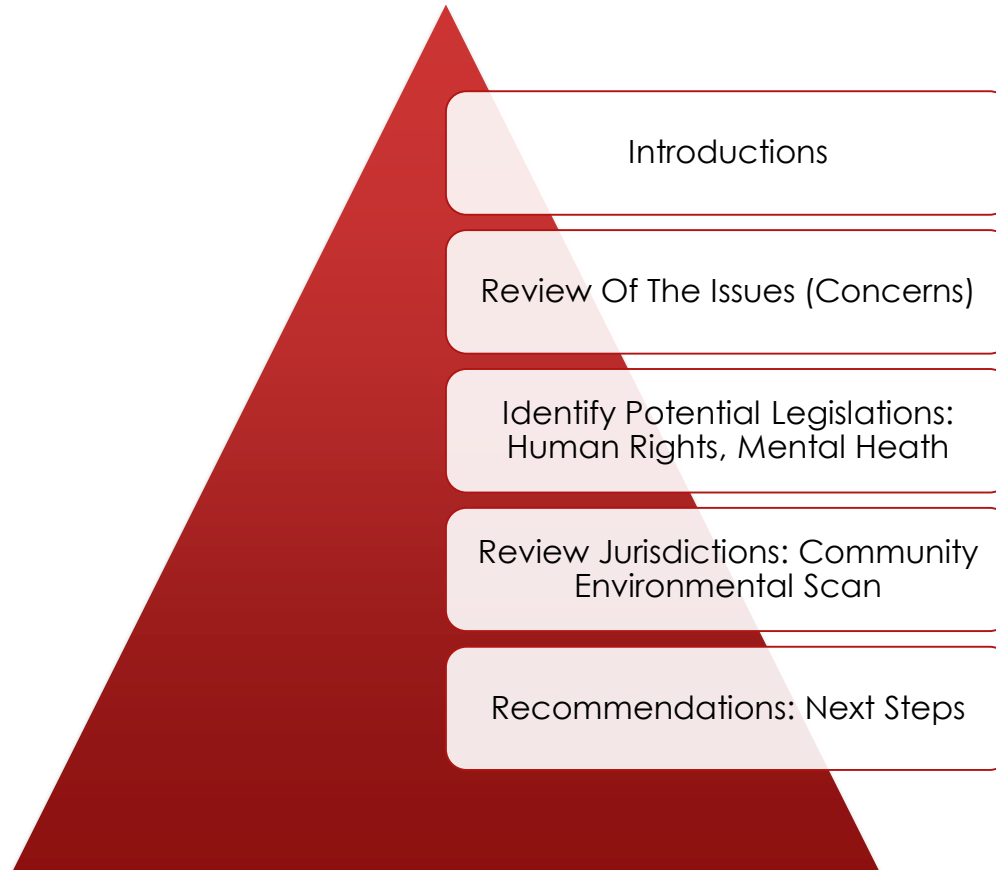
Phase 1 : Identify Problem (Meeting 1)

Phase 2: Engage in Conversations (Research: Focus Groups etc.)

Phase 3: Deliver Findings (Meeting 2)

Phase 4: Policy development (can be joined with Meeting 2)

Workshop Objectives (1.5)



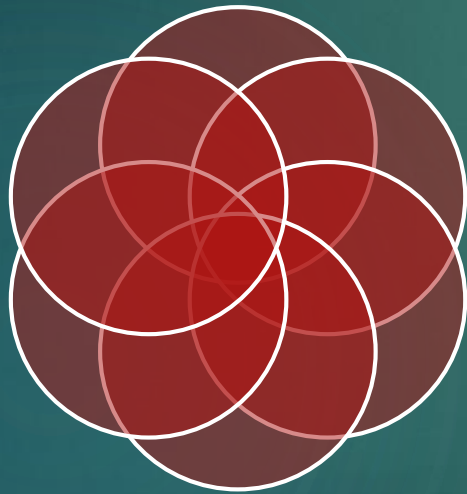
Why are students
missing school

Societal Factors

- ▶ Poverty
- ▶ Homelessness (Couch Surfing)
- ▶ Living Situation
- ▶ Isolation (don't fit in), loneliness
- ▶ Poor money management
- ▶ Not involved in extracurricular
- ▶ LGBTQ2+
- ▶ Relationships
- ▶ Domestic Violence
- ▶ Peer Pressure
- ▶ Negative influences (substance misuse)
- ▶ Racism

Academia

Don't understand the material



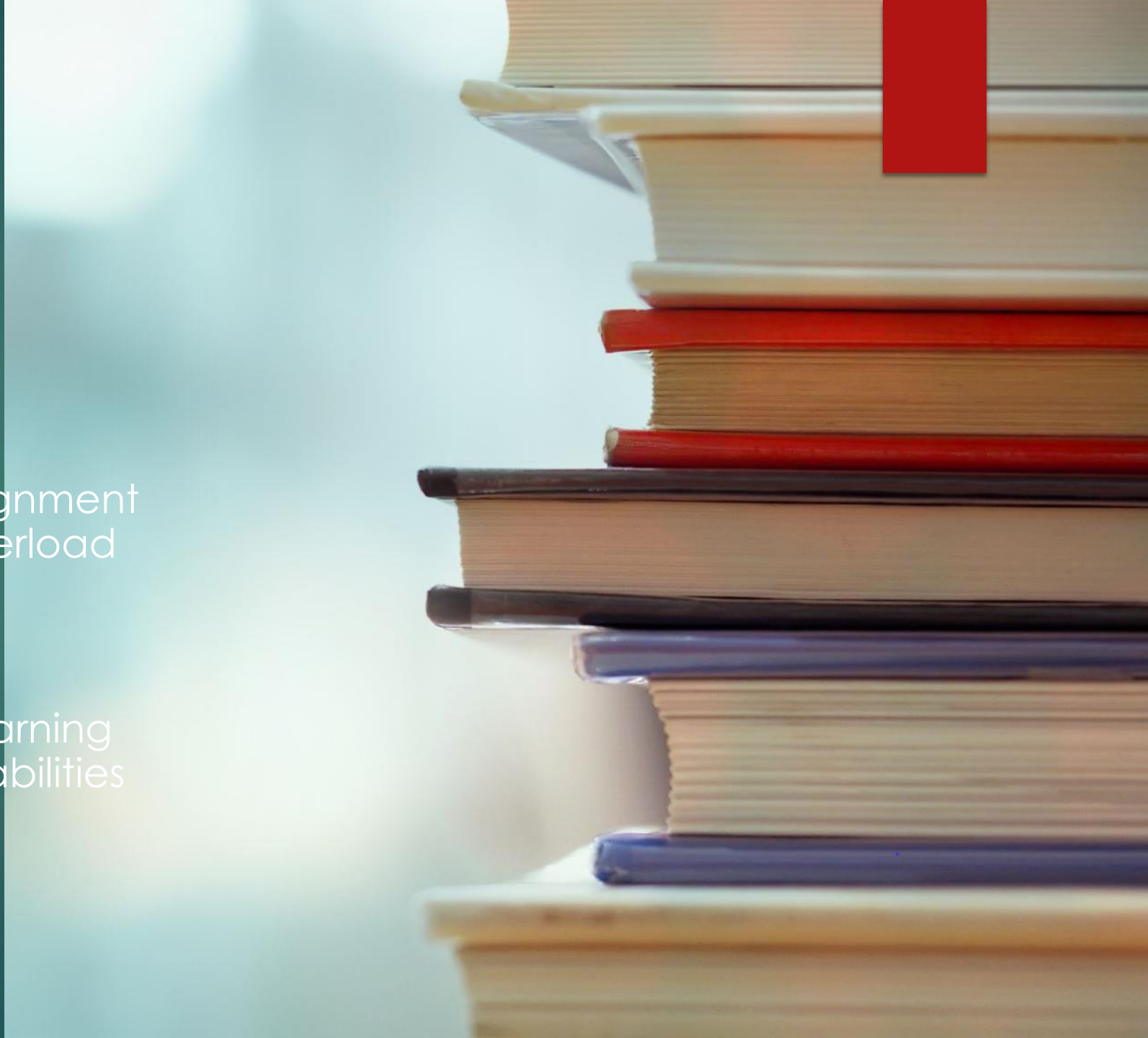
Writing skills

Assignment overload

Reading

Learning disabilities

Terminology



Whose Responsibility...

Collective

Parents

Schools

Teachers

Students

Concerns

Unexplained absents often go unnoticed (until it is too late)

Complex (hard to explain) (reliable vs unreliable sources)

Creates negative impacts for students

Hard to catch up

How to address the issues

Focus
Groups

Interviews

Surveys

Community
meetings

ASK THE STUDENTS

Ideologies

Collectivism as opposed to individualism

- Collectivism prioritizes communal rights and social welfare, working together and supporting each other.

Communal rights:

- Right's and welfare or individual rights and welfare

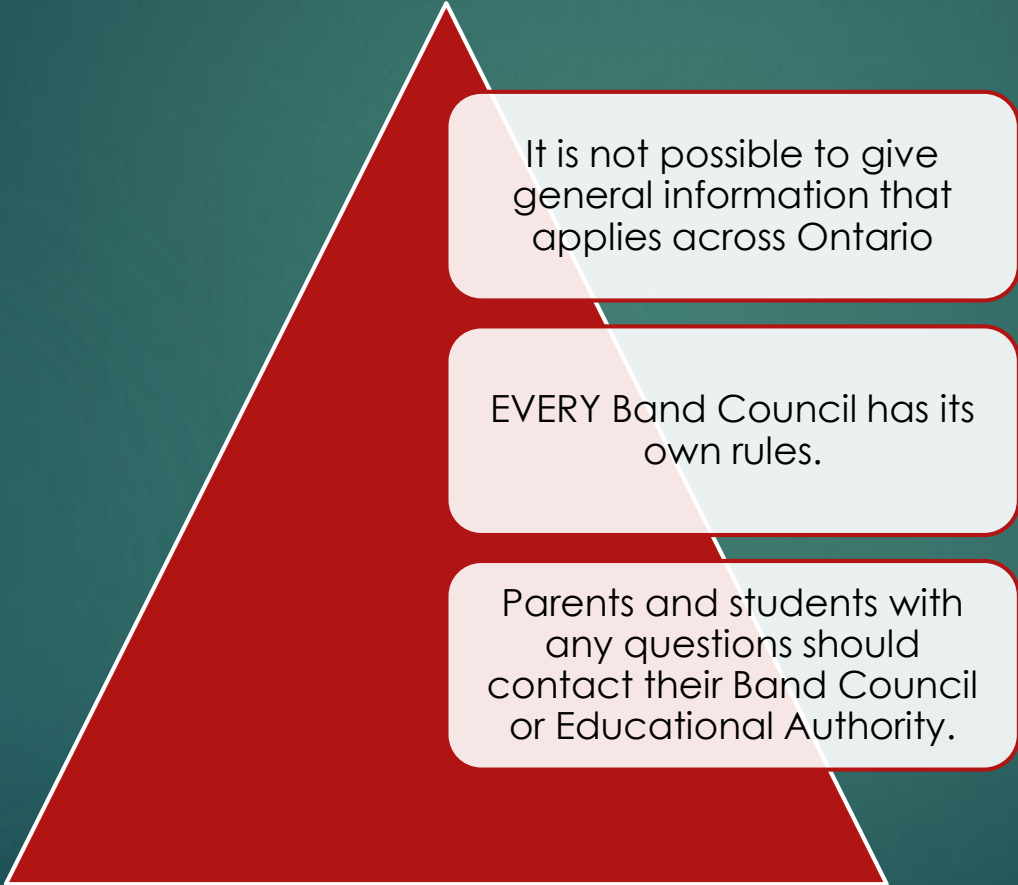
Community Approach

- Everyone is invested

Strength-based

- Focus on each student's gift

First Nation students (registered under the Indian Act)



It is not possible to give general information that applies across Ontario

EVERY Band Council has its own rules.

Parents and students with any questions should contact their Band Council or Educational Authority.

Attendance Rights

- ▶ Going to school is a legal requirement for young people between the ages of 6 and 17. The Education Act gives parents and children specific rights in the publicly funded school system.
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- ▶ All students are required to attend school until they turn 18. If your 18th birthday falls between January 1 and the end of the school year in June, you can quit school as soon as you turn 18.
- ▶ If your birthday falls between the end of the school year in June and December 31, then you can quit school at 17 but you must wait until the end of the school year. (For example if you turn 18 in October 2020, you can quit school at the end of the school year in June 2020).

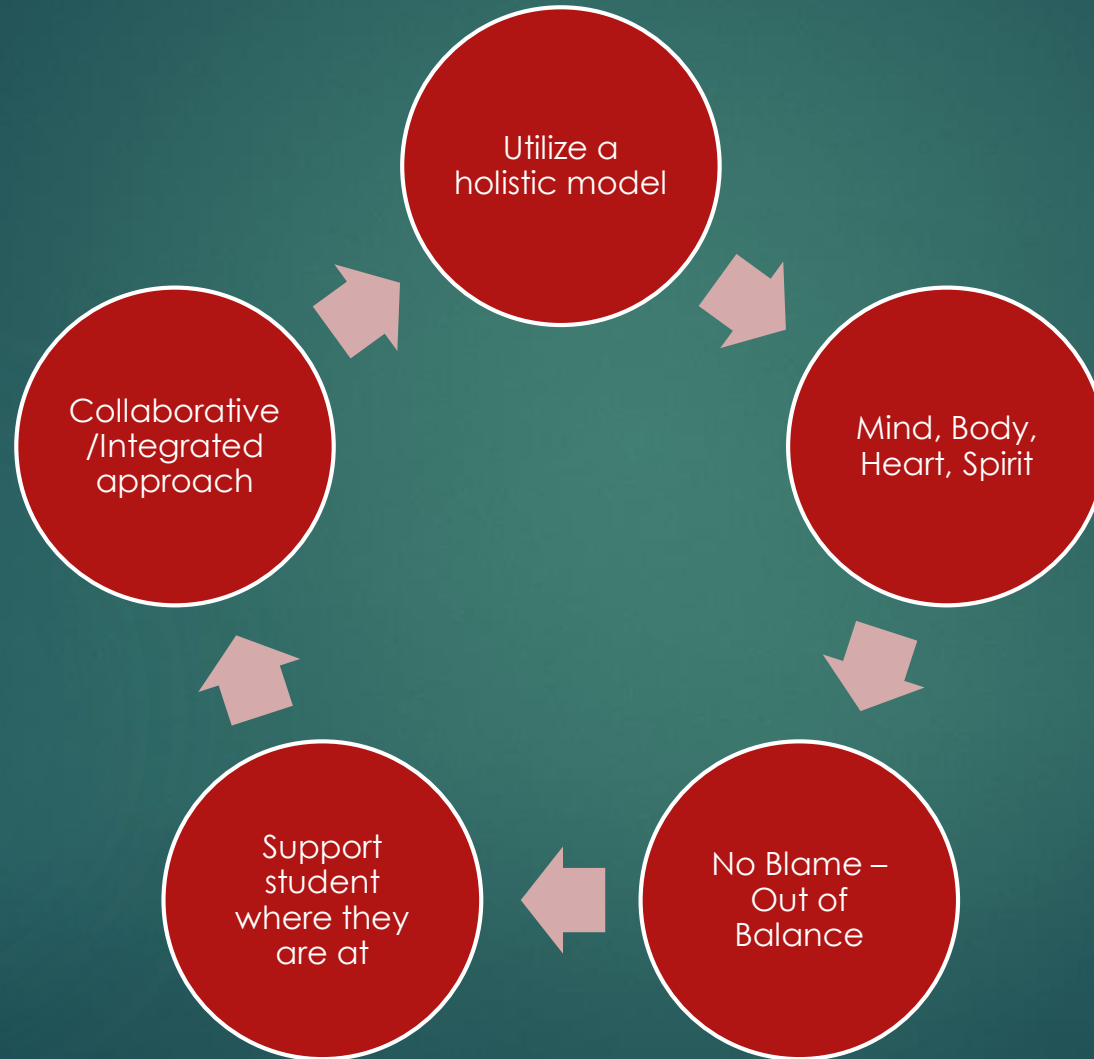
Truancy (Missing School)

- ▶ Students must stay in school or an equivalent learning program approved by the Ministry of Education until they are 18.
- ▶ Parents who neglect to send, or refuses to let, their children go to school can be charged for their child's truancy.
- ▶ 12-15-year old's who regularly skip or refuse to go to school can be charged with truancy. The maximum fine is \$1000 and/or up to 1 year of probation time. While on probation, students are required to attend school; and if the student skips school again, they can be sent to jail for up to 30 days. Students who are charged should speak to a lawyer.

Legally Excused

- ▶ Students are being home-schooled
- ▶ Students are sick or unable to attend because of another “unavoidable cause” (schools can insist on signed notes from parent or maybe even a doctor),
- ▶ Students live too far away from the nearest school and the school board does not provide transportation
- ▶ Students are receiving musical instruction (up to half a day per week),
- ▶ Religious holiday
- ▶ Suspension or expelled

Cultural Integration



Case study: Student A (Sample)

Group Support _ Communication Pathway_ Portal

Community B receives a report regarding student A who has not been in school for the last 2 weeks. Meanwhile, student has been in contact with the Band, no alerts are noticed. Student was always reliable, “good” student

Potential Solution:

Anytime there is a “3 day” absence the community should be notified immediately so the issue can be addressed. Students must sign a agreement that any absence must be supported with a medical note, this ways the student is aware and takes ownership /responsibility.

Expectations:

Doctor notes are required with a support plan of care and expected return date without violating student privacy. (Student was aware of this expectation in advance)

Recommendations

Integrate community helpers

Implement more frequent reporting process

Student submissions of tests/assignments

Policy development

SWOT

- Identifying the problem(s)
- Students are noticing
- Validation



- Recognize students who are doing well
- Communication i.e. text
- Policy /policies
- Changes in behavior /patterns

- Activities that can be avoided
- Students demotivated
- Witness to patterns

- NEW Challenges
- Negative Influences
- Undiagnosed mental illness

Talking points

- ▶ Not having accessible transportation, not having positive environments and not having accessible workplaces are all possible factors of poor outcomes
- ▶ Discrimination –racism exclusion from social networks
- ▶ Sleep disorders
- ▶ Stigma associated with mental illness /poor health or health concerns
- ▶ Gender issues
- ▶ Human Trafficking i.e. fast money, self esteem/ self worth

Policy Development

- ▶ **Policy** – A clear statement that indicates ONECAS intended protocol(s)
- ▶ **Purpose** – The reason or rationale underlying the policy and procedure - WHY
- ▶ **Scope** – Who is the for i.e. all students, upper /lower students
- ▶ **Definitions** – All terminology must be identified, clear and succinct
- ▶ **Responsibilities** – Describes who is responsible for implementation
- ▶ **Process** – Describes the steps, details, or methods
- ▶ **References** – List of applicable documents, policies, laws, and regulations etc. that are used to develop or have influence on policy.

Contract

Drafted by
students

Students
accountable
to students

Child and Youth MH Service Framework

- ▶ Moving on Mental Health – a system that makes sense for children and youth, released on November 19, 2012, builds on:
- ▶ A Shared Responsibility, Ontario's Policy Framework for Child and Youth Mental Health, 2006 (Policy Framework) and on Ontario's Comprehensive Mental Health and Addiction Strategy (2011) –
- ▶ A joint strategy with the ministries of Education (EDU), Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), Training Colleges and Universities (TCU) and Children and Youth Services (MCYS).


CYMHS

The Policy Framework has four goals:

1. Promote optimal child and youth mental health and well-being through enhanced understanding of, and ability to respond to, child and youth mental health needs through the provision of evidence informed services and supports;
2. Provide children, youth and families with access to a flexible continuum of timely and appropriate services and supports within their own cultural, environmental and community context;
3. Provide community-based services that are coordinated, collaborative and integrated, creating a culture of shared responsibility;
4. Be accountable and well-managed.

Summary

- ▶ Concerns (MH +)
- ▶ Develop a plan (policy)
- ▶ CYMHS Framework –MH
- ▶ Next Steps (Students – Action)



Mii-gwetch
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