



BORDER LAND

SCHOOL DIVISION

August 29, 2023

To the Border Land School Division Community

As the days become a little shorter and the evenings a little cooler, we know it is time to prepare for another school year. We hope that summer was a time of rejuvenation and memory making for our BLSD families and staff. All schools have been busy preparing for students, and we look forward to welcoming each of them as they return to school next week.

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning (MEECL) has a new directive to school divisions regarding supporting student presence and engagement in school. BLSD has created a procedure that supports this directive and includes the reporting of attendance data to MEECL. To read this procedure, please find the link [here](#). We want to draw your attention to two areas of the procedure.

1. The action schools will take should a parent/guardian not call the school before a child does not report to class:

To ensure kids are safe and accounted for, K-8 families will receive a phone call within the first 30 min of the morning and afternoon sessions of classes. This call may be from the school admin assistant or through the automatic calling system. If you receive an automated call, please call the school back as soon as possible. Grade 9-12 families will receive a call before 10 am for the first period of the day and at the conclusion of the school day for the remaining periods.

If you contact the school, prior to attendance being taken, you should not receive a call. If you feel you have excused your child, please reach out to your local school to discuss.

2. The planning process that will occur should a child reach the chronic level of absenteeism:

Should a child reach 10% unexcused absences (K-8) in a term or 10 unexcused absences in a course, your child's classroom teacher will be reaching out to sort how the school team can support your child in attending school. This will be documented in an attendance plan.

Schools work in partnership with families in educating children, this includes working together when attendance at school decreases. Our goal is to work with families and children to identify possible barriers and work to assist in removing them. We value continuing to build relationships and working together. Students are most successful when their schools and families have strong working relationships, supportive communication, and productive collaboration.

If you have any questions about this, or any other procedure in Border Land School Division, please feel free to reach out and ask questions.

We look forward to another great year of learning and growing together as we work towards the mission and vision of BLSD:

We are committed to fostering inspiring educational opportunities, meaningful relationships, engaged citizens, and empowering responsible citizens within our communities.

Yours sincerely


Krista Curry
BLSD Superintendent