

Attendance

A Solution-Focused Approach

Presentation to CASS Fall Conference

November 3, 2017



Context

A review of the Attendance Board was completed in response to the Premier's 2015 directive to review all Agencies, Boards and Commissions.



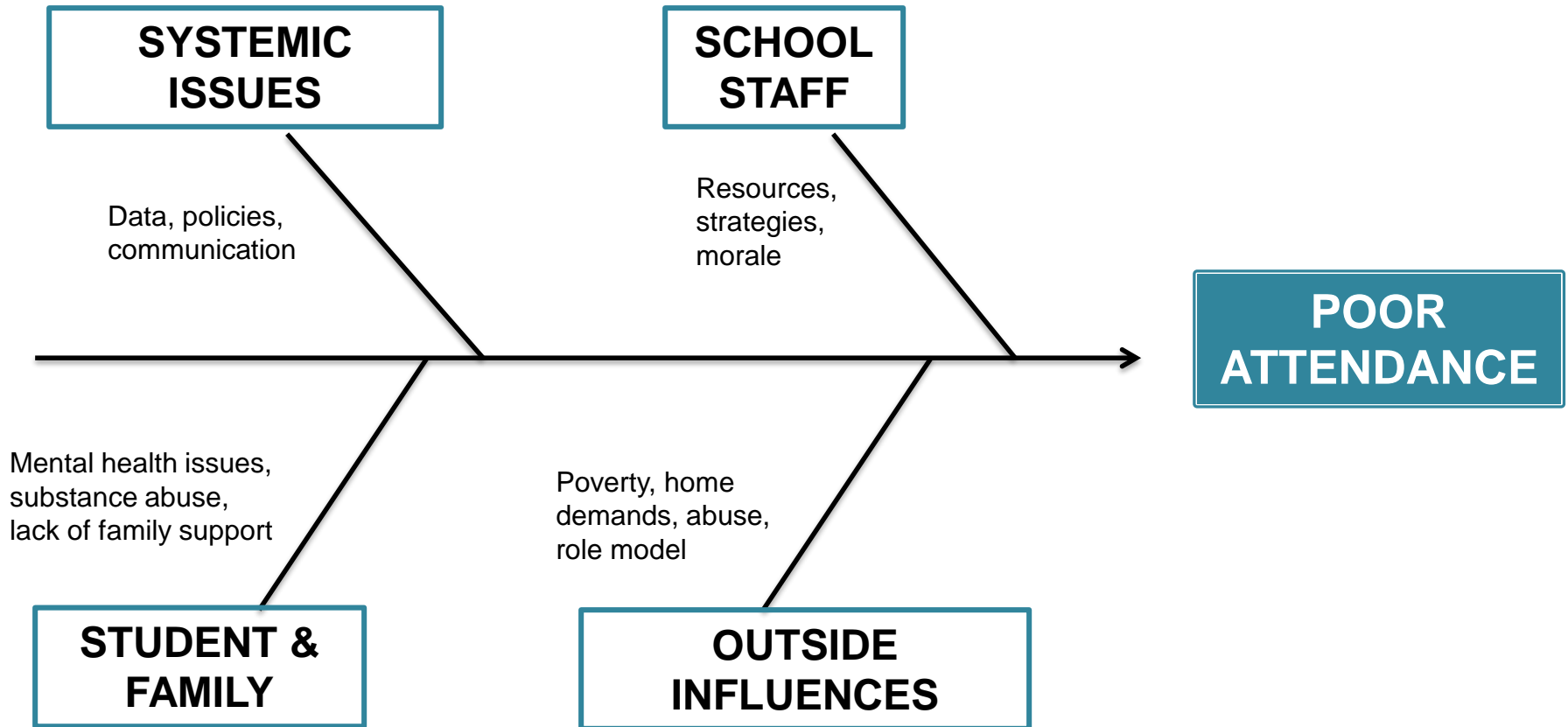
The need for change

- Less than 22% of cases heard by the Attendance Board resulted in significant change to school attendance
- A student centred and solution focused approach to addressing student attendance is needed.

What else do we know?

- Absenteeism is an early indicator that a student may be experiencing difficulty in their life.
- Students engaged in learning enjoy coming to school and feel positive about the future.
- Attendance is strongly connected to school success.
- Disengagement can lead to attendance issues.

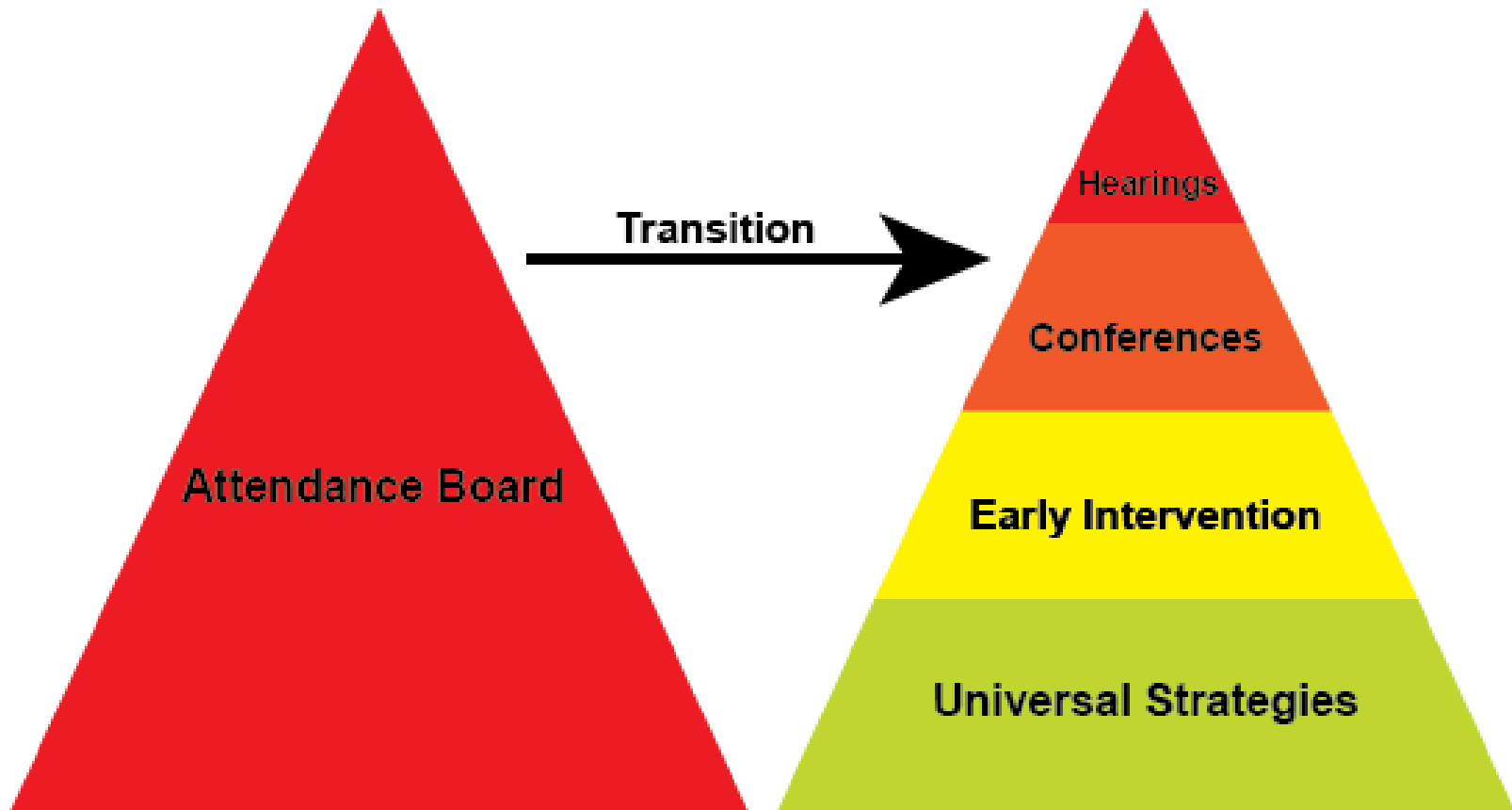
What are the root causes?



A New Approach

**The Office of Student Attendance and
Re-Engagement (OSAR)**

The shifting role of the ministry in supporting student attendance



What is changing?

OSAR (NEW)

- Support and coaching, resources and ideas
- Connecting
- Supporting intervention
- Community Conferences
- Access to the Attendance Board when required

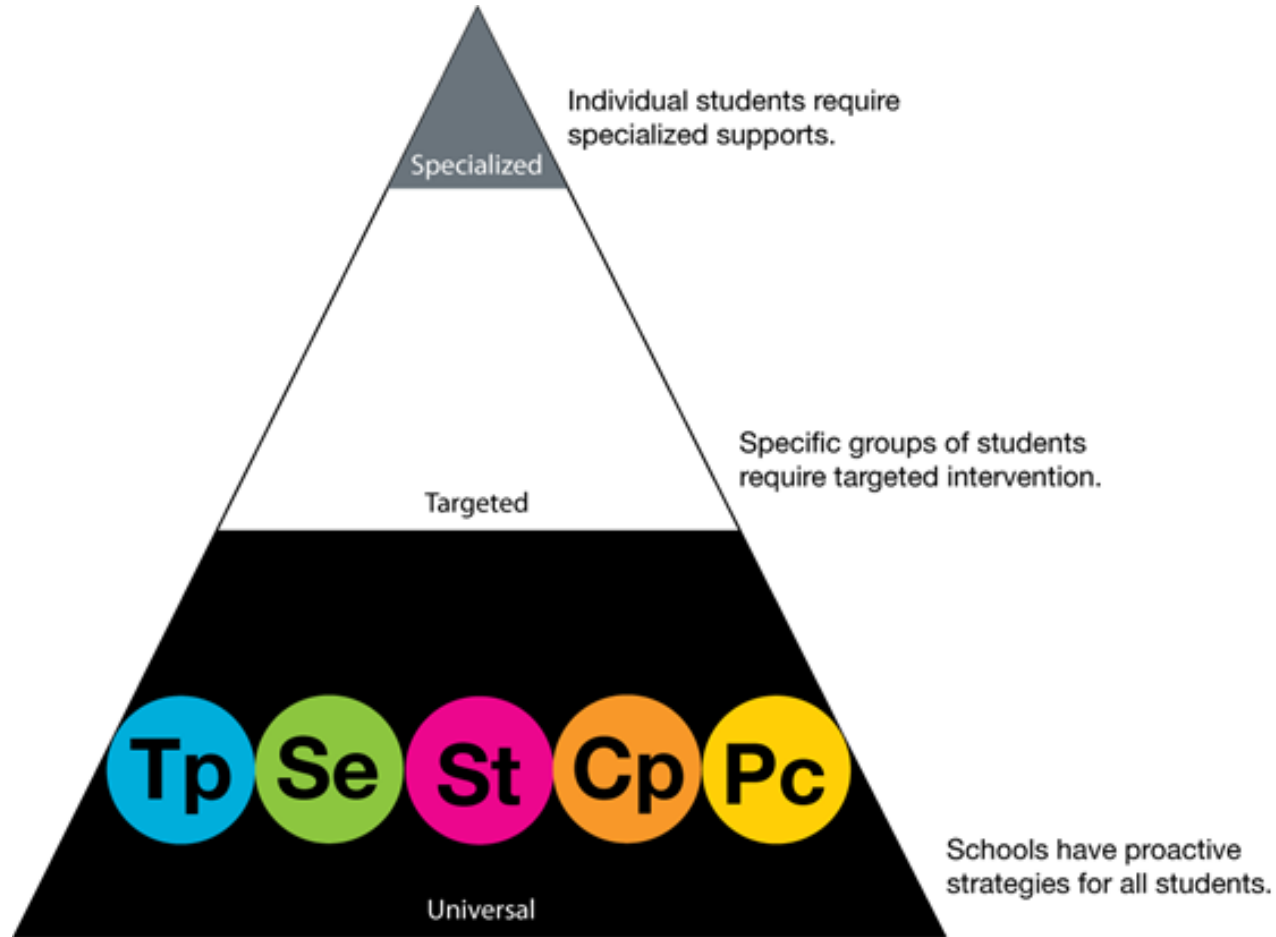
Attendance Board (RENEWED)

- 75 members
- Chair external to government
- Provincial consistency
- Renewed referral form

OSAR Mandate

The Office of Student Attendance and Re-Engagement provides leadership and support to school authorities and, when necessary, access to the Attendance Board.

Attendance: Pyramid of Intervention



Universal Strategies to Support Attendance



Tracking Progress — monitoring attendance data is the key to early identification of chronic or increasing absenteeism



Student Engagement — creating a culture of learning that engages students and increases school attendance



Successful Transitions — understanding and planning for transitions



Collaborative Partnerships — providing access to a variety of activities and services supports student attainment, self-confidence, motivation and attendance



Positive Connections — in order for students to experience success, positive connections must be created and maintained between school staff, the student and their family

A Community Conference is....

- a meeting of people impacted by student absenteeism
- facilitated by a trained person
- a discussion of the root causes and impacts of the absences
- a forum in which all parties seek a solution that is agreeable to all

Access to the Attendance Board

- Office of Student Attendance and Re-engagement provides operational and administrative support to the Attendance Board.
- When all reasonable efforts to improve attendance have been made at the local level, the school authority may refer the matter to the Attendance Board.

Office of Student Attendance and Re-Engagement

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