## .41 POLICY STATEMENT: Student Engagement

### Introduction

All Victorian government schools are required to develop a Student Engagement Policy which articulates the school community’s shared expectations in the areas of student engagement, attendance and behaviour. The policy supports the rights and articulates the expectations of every member of the school community to engage in and promote a safe and inclusive educational environment. The Department is committed to providing safe, secure and stimulating learning environments in all Victorian government schools. Students can reach their full educational potential only when they are happy, healthy and safe, and when there is a positive school culture to engage and support them in their learning. Student wellbeing and student learning outcomes are inextricably linked, and schools should aim to promote an understanding of this link in both the school environment and in the classroom. It is fundamental to acknowledge that each teacher is a vital source of support and a determinant in the success of their students.

#### Definitions

Student engagement can be defined as three interrelated components: behavioural, emotional and cognitive.

##### Behavioural Engagement

refers to students’ participation in education, including the academic, social and extracurricular activities of the school.

##### Emotional Engagement

encompasses students’ emotional reactions in the classroom and in the school and measures a students’ sense of belonging or connectedness to the school.

##### Cognitive Engagement

relates to a students’ investment in learning and their intrinsic motivation and self-regulation.

#### Purpose

* To relate to and be consistent with the ‘Effective Schools are Engaging Schools: Student Engagement Policy Guidelines’, in areas such as the encouragement of educational achievement and excellence, prevention of absences and inappropriate behaviour.
* To foster a healthy school culture in which high levels of achievement take place within a positive social environment through engagement.
* To provide students with a safe learning environment where the risk of harm is minimised and students feel physically and emotionally secure.
* To provide support for individual circumstances when a student begins to disengage from their learning, when regular attendance is not consistent or positive behaviours are not demonstrated.
* To maximise student learning opportunities and performance through engagement.
* To provide genuine opportunities for student/parent participation and student/parent voice.
* To build a school environment based on positive behaviours and values.
* To provide prevention (cognitive, behavioural and emotional) and intervention for all students at risk.