

SPARWOOD

SECONDARY

2026 - 2027



GROWTH PLAN



GOAL 1:
LITERACY



GOAL 2:
ENGAGEMENT

A school rooted in community

A connected, inclusive secondary school serving Sparwood and the Elk Valley.

SPARWOOD

4,200

community population

Southeastern British Columbia
A mountain community supported by a network of metallurgical coal mines and global markets.

308 students

A close-knit student body with a wide range of strengths, identities and learning needs.

40 staff

A multi-disciplinary team supporting academic learning, belonging and well-being.

Broad opportunities

Athletics, academics, practical learning, fine arts and design electives.

Layered supports

Indigenous supports, Youth Care, Alternate Education and Student Services.

Goals:

1

LITERACY

To improve reading comprehension

Build academic vocabulary and morphology across every subject area.

Language → meaning

2

HUMAN & SOCIAL

To improve engagement

Make daily learning clear, purposeful and worth attending for.

Clarity → engagement

EQUITY LENS

Indigenous students • Children and Youth in Care • Diverse learners

Literacy: build the language of learning

Explicit instruction helps students unlock meaning across subject areas.



Expected result: stronger comprehension and clearer understanding of what assessments and assigned tasks require.

Measure what the strategy is designed to change

Current provincial assessments provide broad literacy information, but not a timely measure of academic vocabulary growth.

CURRENT EVIDENCE

Learning updates

Ongoing classroom evidence

FSA

Useful in Grade 7, but does not extend beyond Grade 7

Grade 10 Literacy Assessment

Valuable, but three years after FSA



PROPOSED LOCAL MEASURE

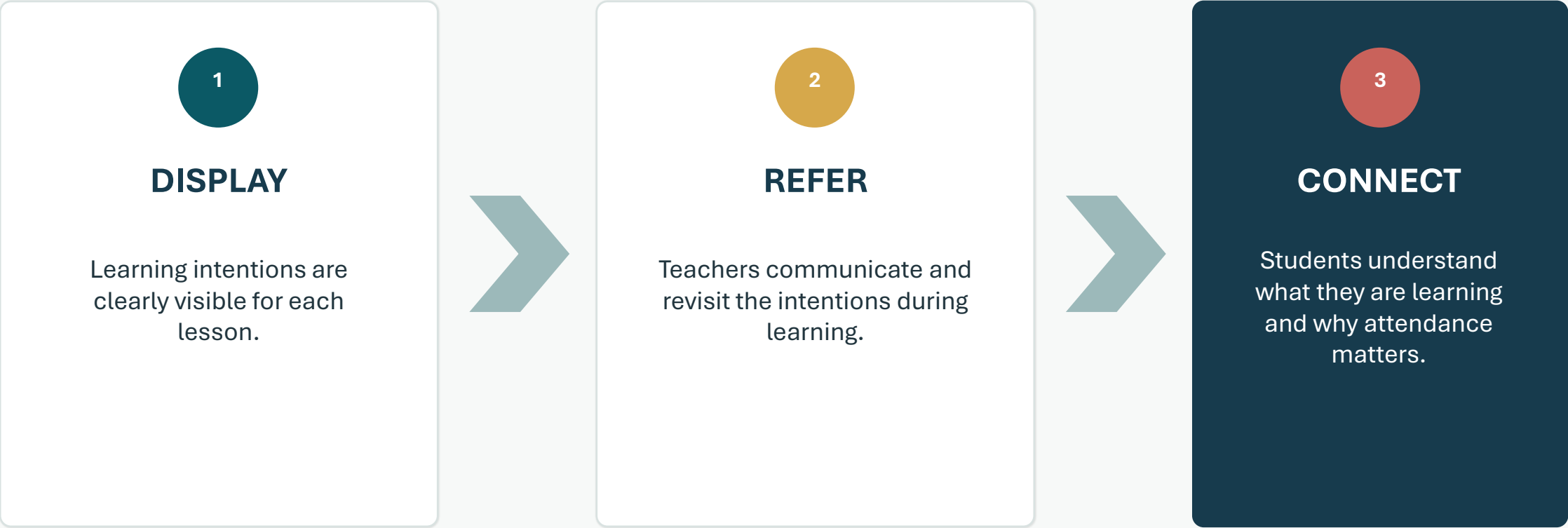
Department-specific academic vocabulary inventories

Pre-assess → explicitly teach → post-assess

Use results to evaluate student growth and the effectiveness of implementation.

Engagement: make learning visible and valuable

Clear learning intentions connect the lesson, the task and the reason to be present.



Theory of action **Clarity builds relevance. Relevance supports engagement. Engagement supports regular attendance.**

Attendance is one indicator of engagement in school

The available data show a substantial gap between Sparwood Secondary School and comparison rates.

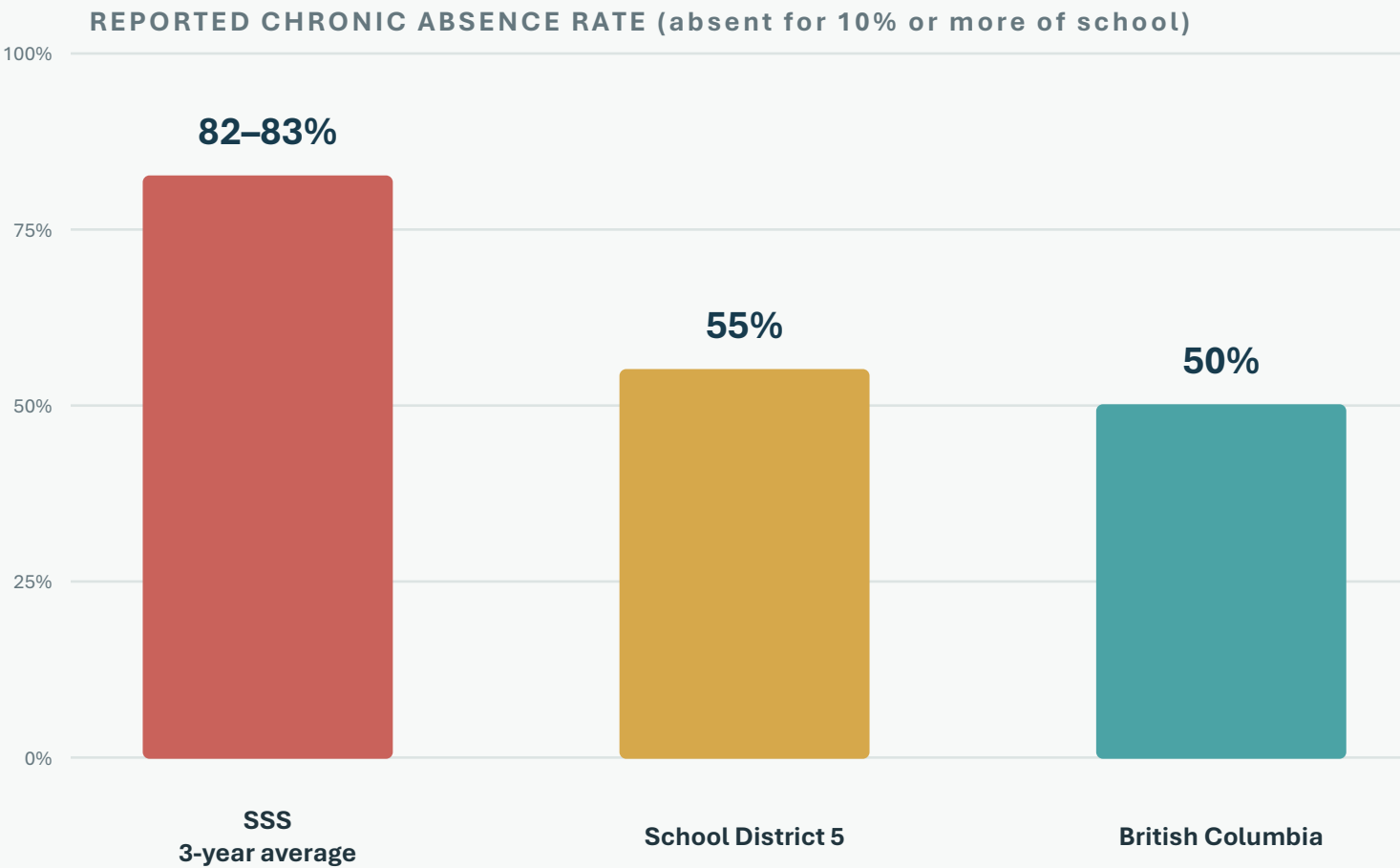
2025–2026

69.1%

of students were absent
80 or more classes

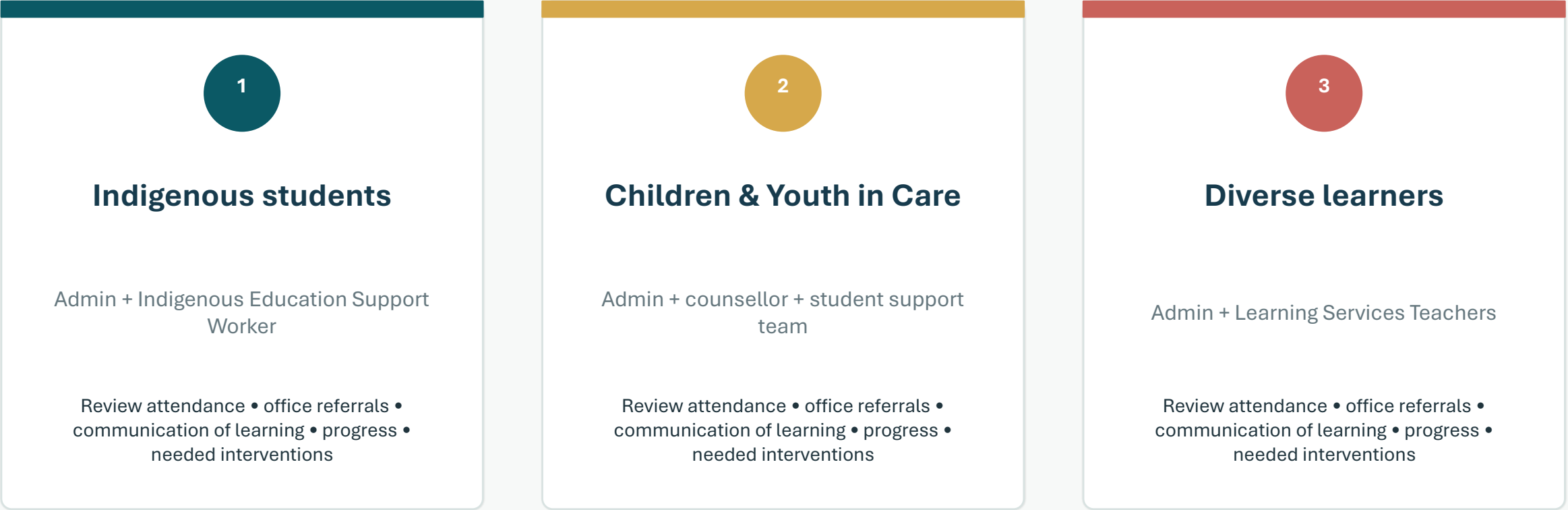
This indicator of 69.1% is presented separately from the reported three-year chronic absence rate because the definitions may differ.

Considerations: Investigate how attendance and absenteeism rates are collected and we will determine a consistent process to measure attendance. Variables requiring consistency include the reasons for an absence: unexcused absences, truancy, parent excused absences, field trips, school team travel, non school related sports travel, family vacations.



Monitor, listen and respond through a wraparound team

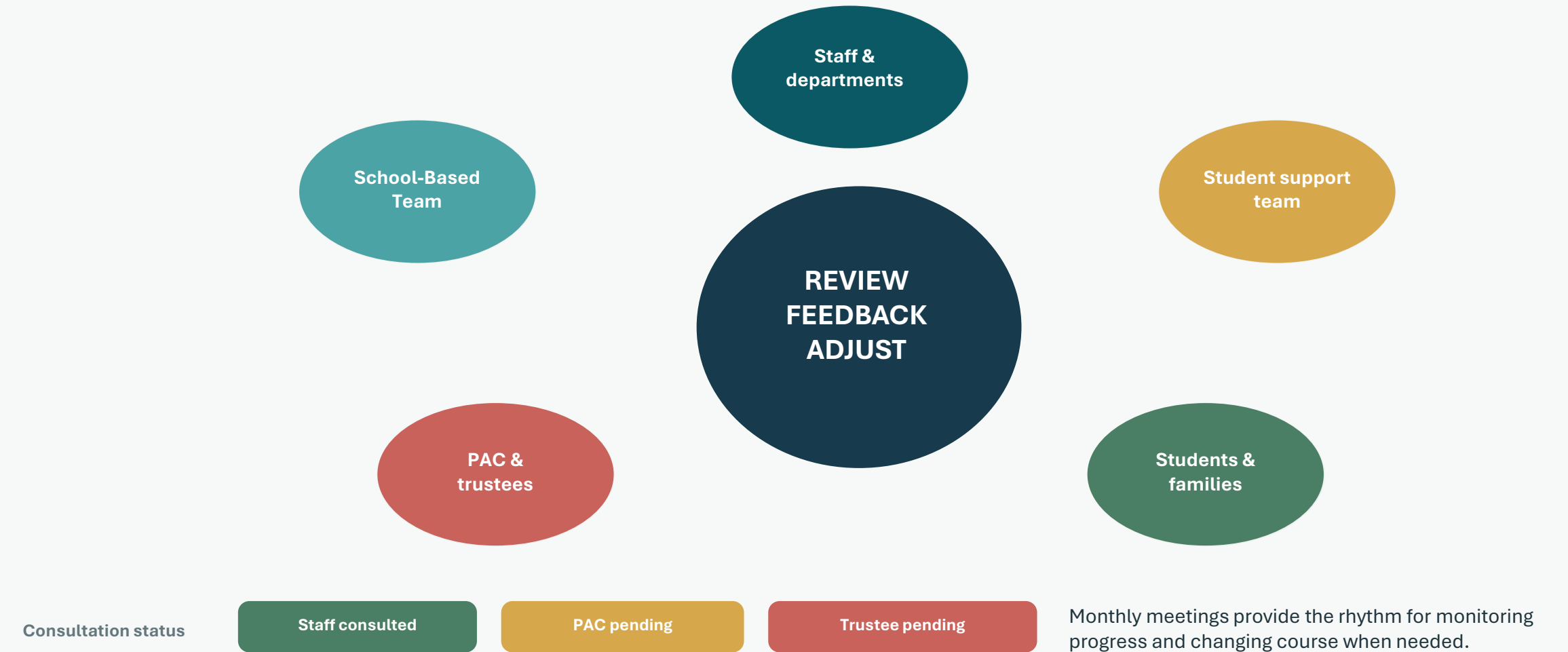
Monthly reviews centre students whose learning may be affected by systemic or individual barriers.



Principle: involve students and parents/guardians in supportive planning, feedback and adjustment.

A continuous cycle of consultation and adjustment

Regular structures keep the plan active, responsive and shared.



What progress will look like

A practical scorecard to guide staff dialogue and annual reporting.

FOCUS	INDICATOR	EVIDENCE
Literacy practice	Essential academic vocabulary is identified and explicitly taught across departments	Department inventories • instructional evidence
Literacy outcome	Students demonstrate stronger understanding and application of academic language	Pre/post inventory results • classroom assessments
Attendance practice	Learning intentions are displayed, communicated and revisited	Walk-throughs • staff reflection • student feedback
Attendance outcome	Absence rates decline, with subgroup patterns monitored and addressed	Monthly attendance data • student/family conversations
Belonging & equity	Students experience safe, welcoming and inclusive learning environments	Office referral trends • street data • support-team reviews

Our commitment

Every student can access the language of learning, see the purpose of each day, and feel that Sparwood Secondary School is a place to belong.

Next: finalize assessment processes, standardize attendance measures, complete PAC and trustee consultation, and begin the monitoring cycle.