



Get R.E.A.L. with Families about Attendance and Engagement



Ohio Family Engagement Leadership Summit
Friday, September 22, 2023



Welcome & Introductions

In the chat, please share:

- ✓ Your name and role
- ✓ Your school, district or organization
- ✓ ***Who or what*** motivated you to attend school every day?



Agenda

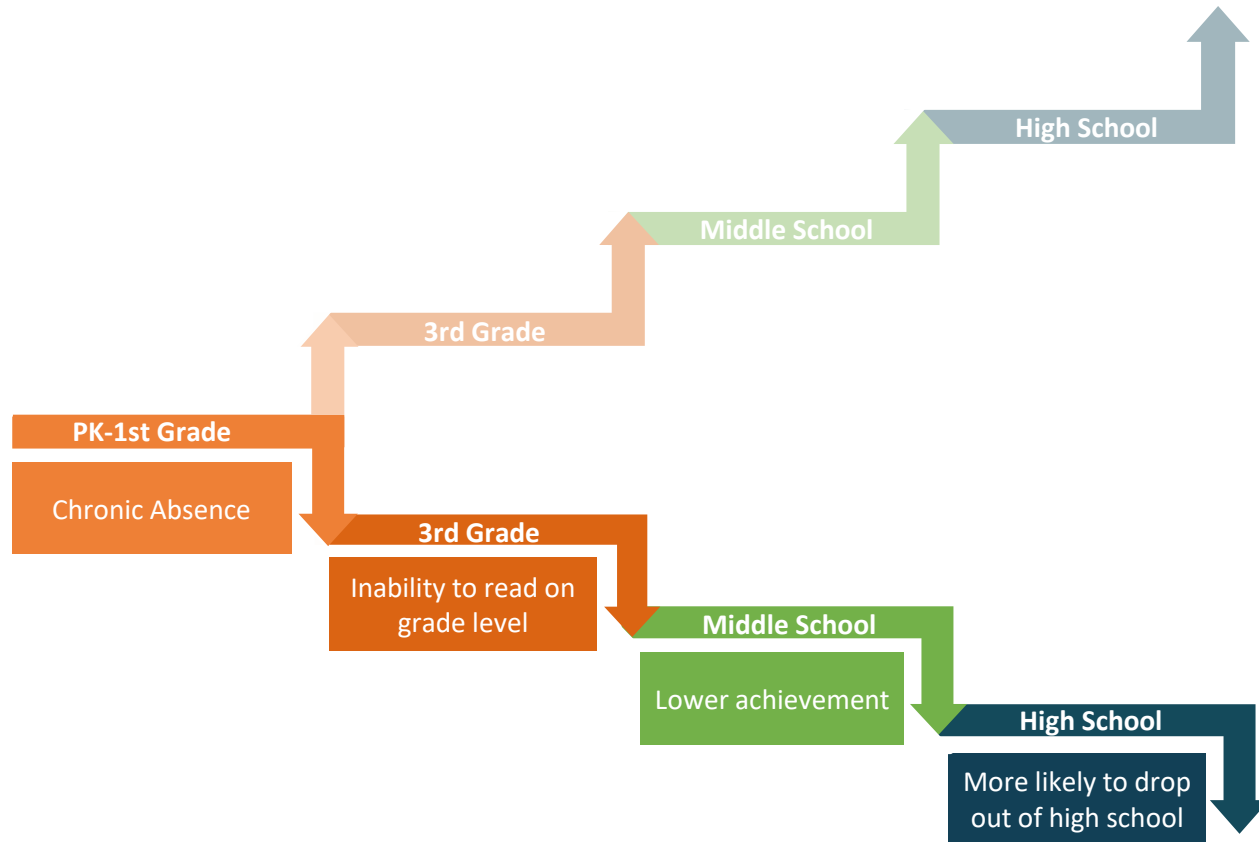
- ❖ **Overview of Chronic Absence**
- ❖ **Accessing Data**
- ❖ **Multi-tiered Approach**
- ❖ **Co-Create Solutions Through Caring Conversations**



**What is the relationship
between absences & equity?**

**Absenteeism is a *leading*
indicator and a *cause* of
educational inequity**

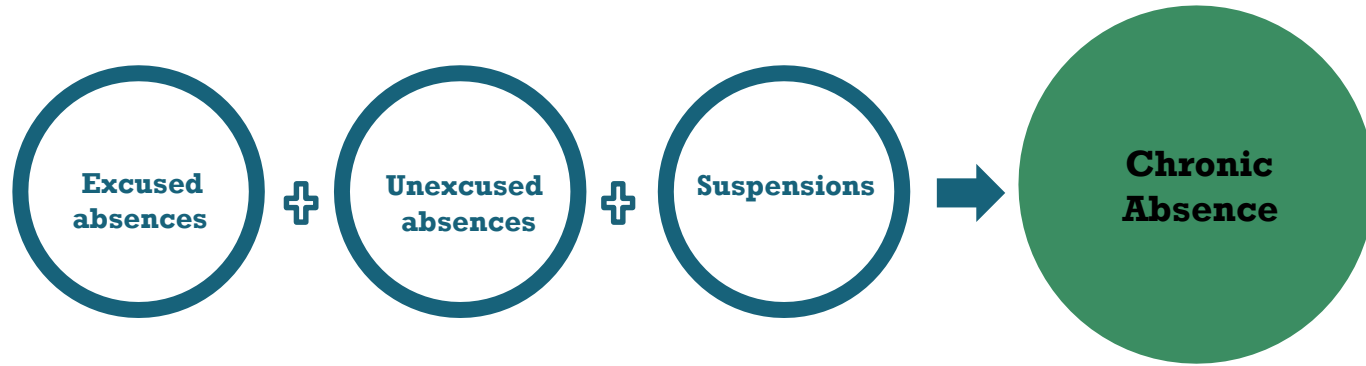
Improving Attendance Matters





What is chronic absence?

Chronic absence is missing so much school for any reason that a student is academically at risk. Chronic absence is defined as **missing 10 percent or more of school for any reason.**



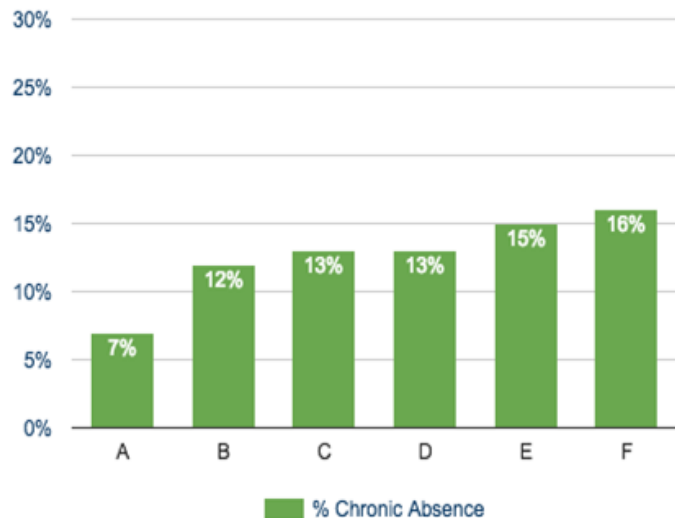
Chronic absence is different from **truancy** (unexcused absences only) or **average daily attendance** (how many students show up to school each day).



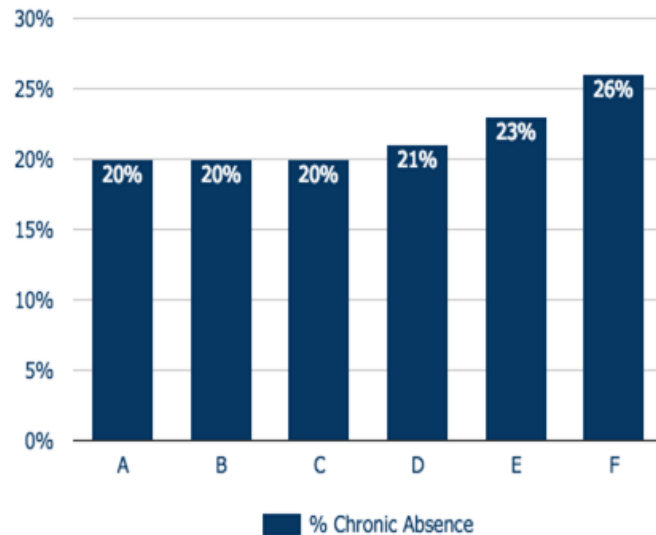
Average Daily Attendance (ADA) Can Mask Chronic Absence

90% and even 95% \neq A

Chronic Absence For 6 Elementary Schools in Oakland, CA with 95% ADA in 2012

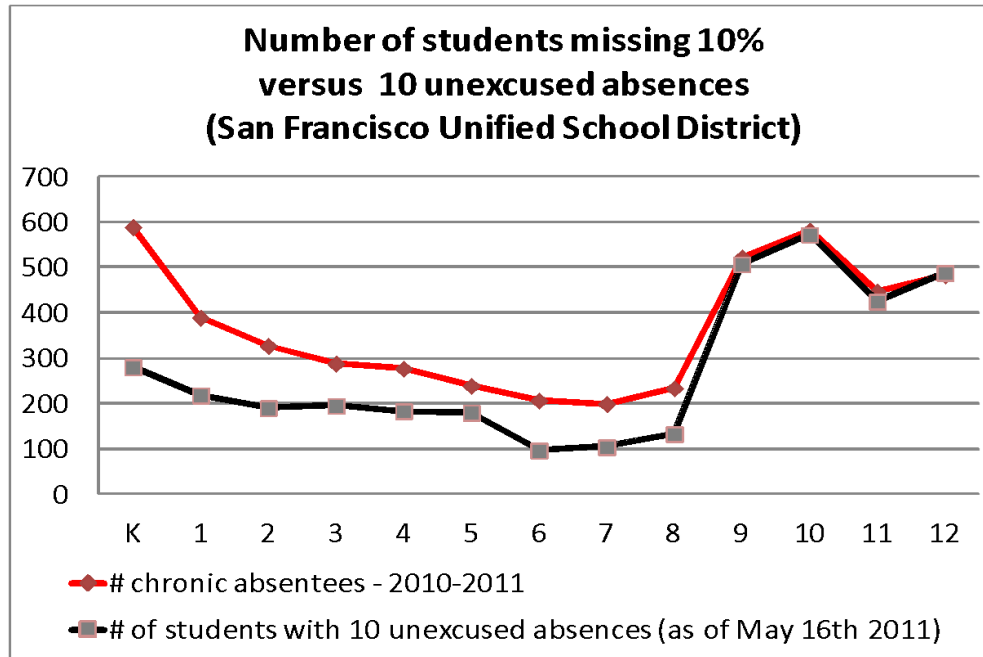


Chronic Absence for 6 Schools in New York City with 90% ADA in 2011-12





Chronic Absence vs. Unexcused Absences



What's the Difference between ADA, Chronic Absence & Truancy?

Average Daily Attendance (ADA)

- ▲ School level measure (*not student level*)
- ▲ Notice aggregate attendance at certain points in time (e.g., half-days, holidays, bad weather)
- ▲ Masks individual student chronic absences

Truancy

- ▲ Counts **ONLY** unexcused absences
- ▲ Emphasizes individual compliance with school rules
- ▲ Uses legal, typically more blaming and punitive solutions

Chronic Absence

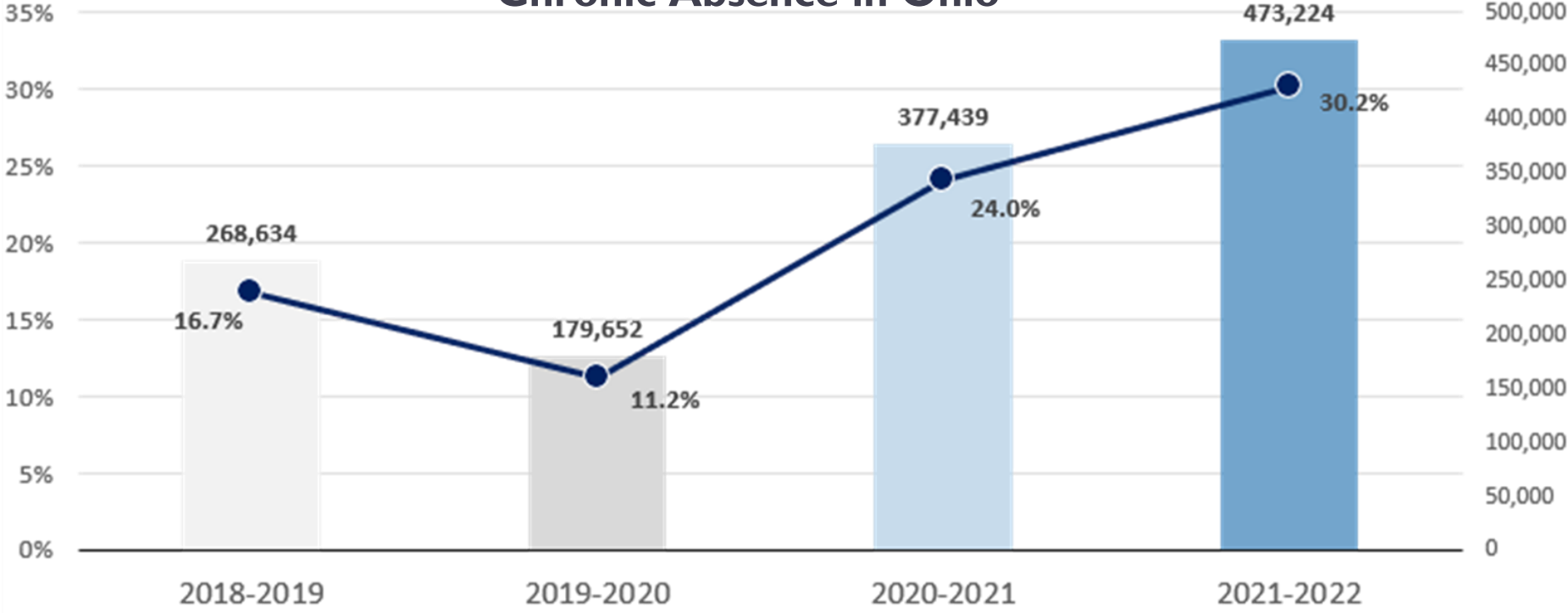
- Counts **ALL** absences (*excused, unexcused & suspensions*)
- Emphasizes impact of missed days
- Uses preventative, problem-solving, trauma-sensitive strategies
- Cultivates family & student engagement

Our Nation Faces An Attendance Crisis

- **Pre-pandemic: 8 million (1 out of 6) students were chronically absent** (*missing 10% or more of school for any reason: excused, unexcused, suspension*)
- **Chronic absence has nearly doubled nationwide.** It affects more than 1 out of 4 students. Early data for 2022-23 show rates remain high.
- **Economically disadvantaged students and families, as well as Native American, Black, Latino/Hispanic and Pacific Islander students are disproportionately affected.**
- **Chronic absenteeism is especially high in early elementary and throughout high school.**

Chronic Absence Has Almost Doubled Nationally

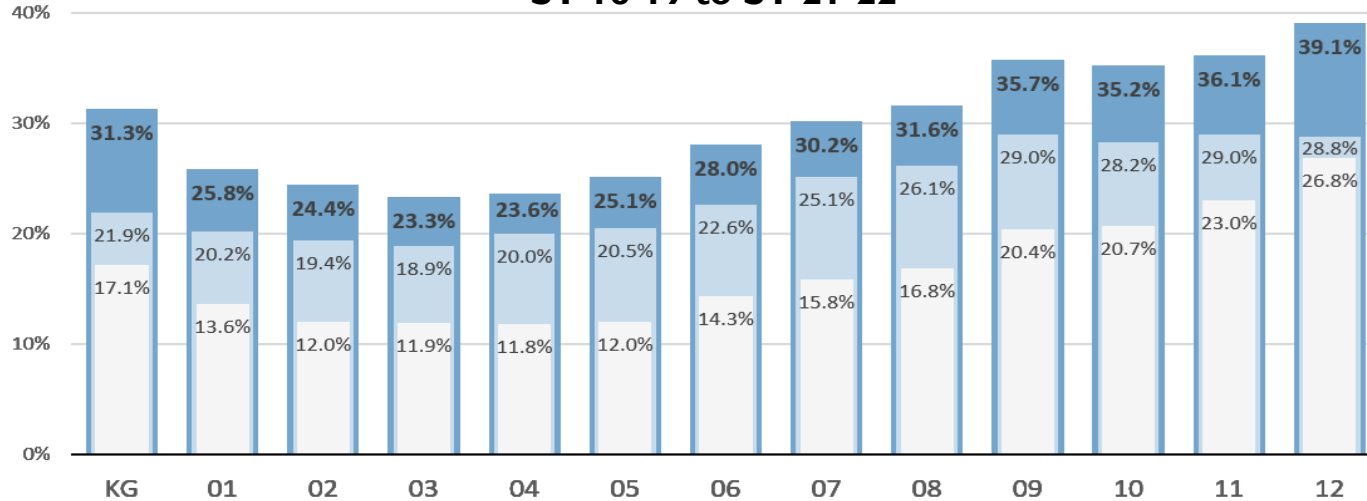
Chronic Absence in Ohio





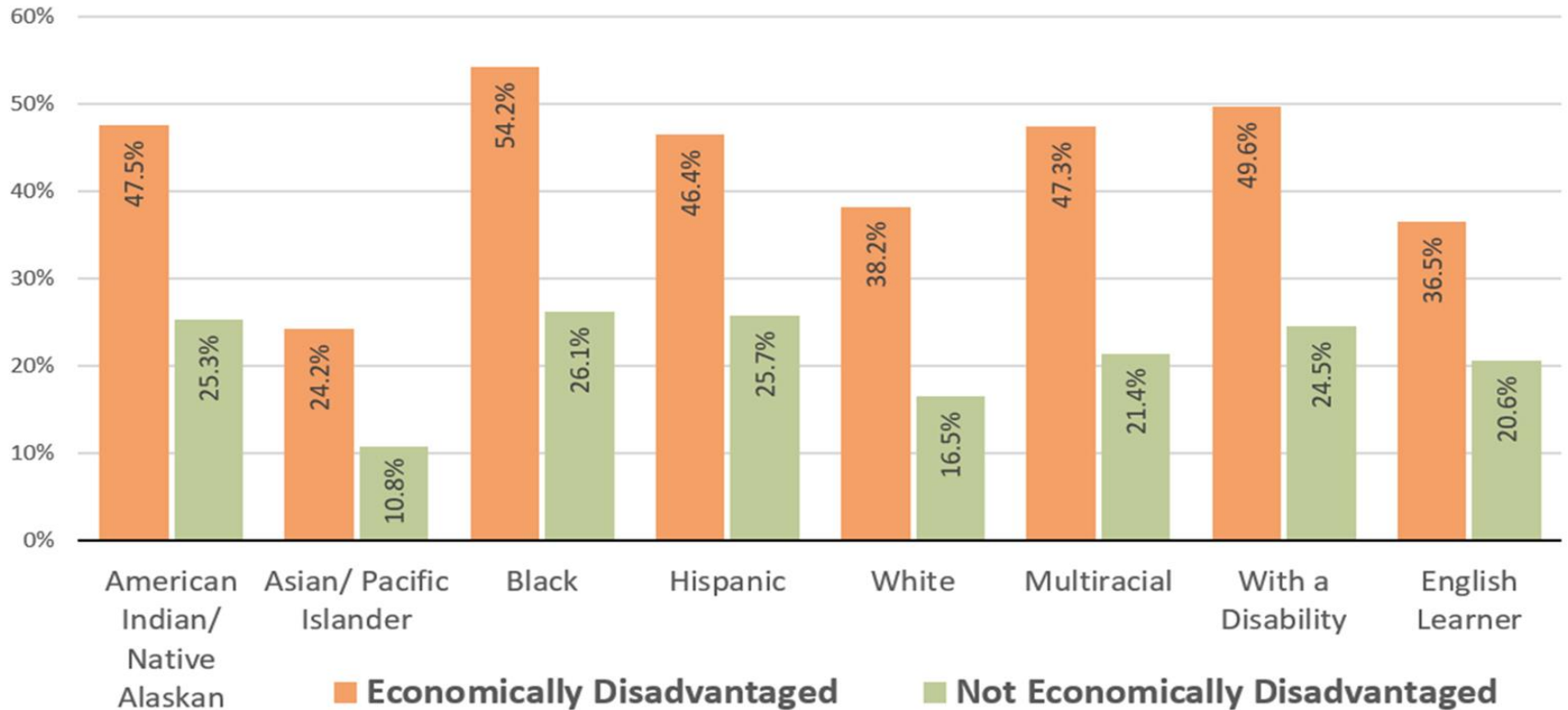
Chronic Absence By Grade

Chronic Absence in Ohio SY 18-19 to SY 21-22



2018-2019 2020-2021 2021-2022

Chronic Absence in Ohio by Student Groups





Access Ohio District and School Data

<https://reports.education.ohio.gov/overview>

Public Data → Student Attendance → School/District



Chronic Absenteeism and Attendance Rate - Overview (District)

Choose a School Year

2021-2022 School Year

Choose a District

All

Gender	Chronic Absenteeism Rate	Attendance Rate
Female	30.1%	90.4%
Male	29.8%	90.4%
Total	29.9%	90.4%

Grade Level	Chronic Absenteeism Rate	Attendance Rate
Kindergarten	31.4%	90.8%
1st Grade	25.9%	91.9%
2nd Grade	24.4%	92.1%
3rd Grade	23.4%	92.4%
4th Grade	23.6%	92.3%
5th Grade	25.2%	92.0%
6th Grade	28.0%	91.4%
7th Grade	30.3%	90.7%
8th Grade	31.7%	90.3%
9th Grade	35.8%	88.0%
10th Grade	35.3%	88.4%
11th Grade	36.2%	87.9%
12th Grade	39.2%	86.9%
Enrolled, completed course requirements but did not pass graduation test and is attending school.	41.4%	79.0%
Student with disability condition who has completed graduation requirements and elects to remain for further training	18.0%	94.1%

Race/Ethnicity	Chronic Absenteeism Rate	Attendance Rate
American Indian or Alaskan Native	38.0%	88.7%
Asian	14.2%	94.5%
Black, Non-Hispanic	49.3%	85.1%
Hispanic	39.2%	88.2%
Multiracial	37.1%	88.8%
Pacific Islander	32.3%	90.1%
White, Non-Hispanic	24.0%	92.0%

English Learner Status	Chronic Absenteeism Rate	Attendance Rate
EL Student in school < 1 year	35.2%	90.1%
EL Student in his/her second year	27.8%	91.5%
EL Student in trial mainstream program	31.2%	89.9%
EL Student	36.6%	88.6%
Exited EL program one year ago	18.0%	93.6%
Exited EL program two years ago	21.0%	93.0%
Exited EL program three years ago	21.3%	93.0%
Exited EL program four years ago	21.9%	92.8%

Additional Subgroups	Chronic Absenteeism Rate	Attendance Rate
Economic Disadvantaged	44.1%	87.0%
Homeless Students	64.8%	79.2%
Identified as Gifted	14.9%	94.0%
Received Gifted Services	12.5%	94.6%
Students with Disabilities	39.6%	88.1%

Small Group Discussion

In your small group, review one school's or district's data. As a group, discuss these questions:

- **Which students (grades, groups) are struggling the most with attendance?**
- **Who should see and be aware of this data?**



Ground Rules

- Turn on your video camera
- Briefly introduce yourself
- Raise your hand to speak
- Ask clarifying questions
- Create space for everyone to speak (and use the chat to express ideas)
- Person whose first name is closest to the letter “A” is the facilitator
- Person with first name closest to the letter “Z” picks the school/district



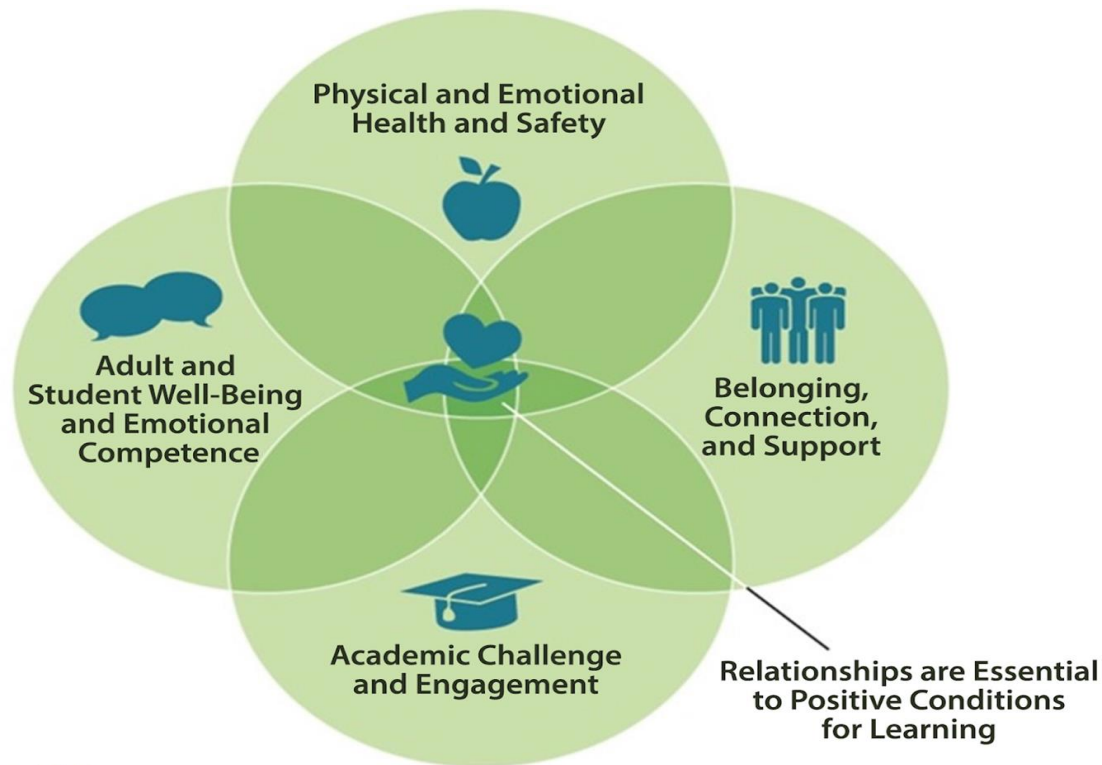
Report Out

Share in Chat:

Based on your small group conversation
what was an insight you gained?

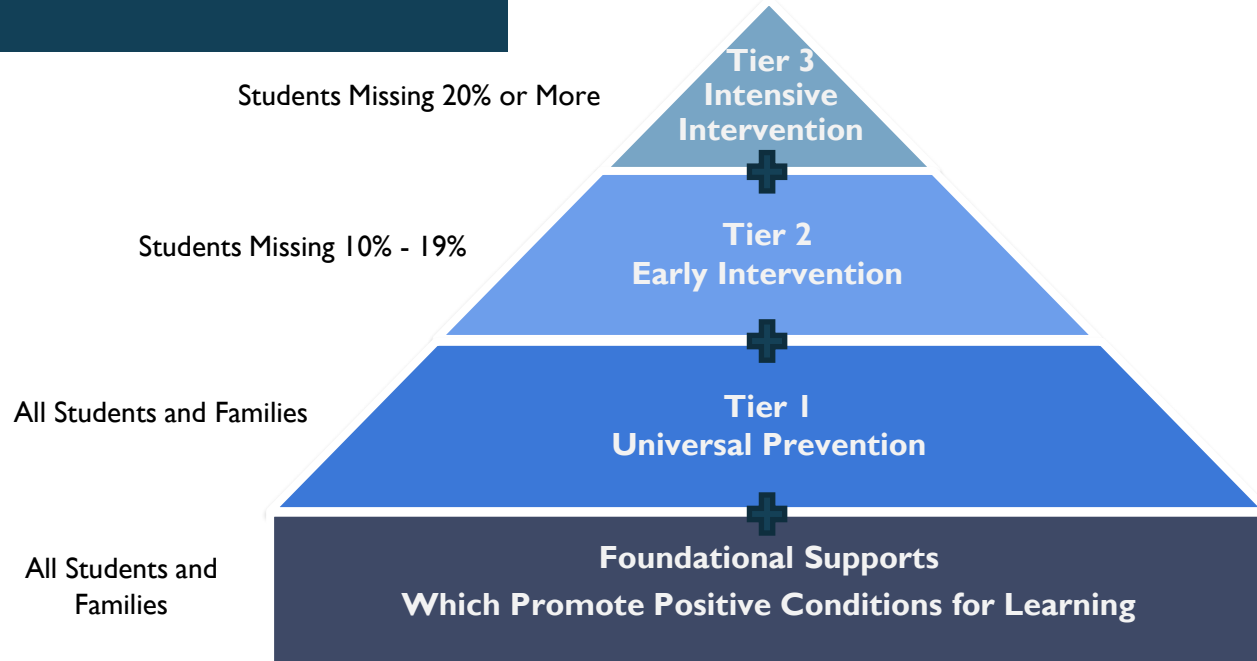
**The Key to Improving
Attendance is a Tiered Approach
That Begins With Positive
Conditions for Learning**

Rather than taking a punitive approach, we must understand that the continued high levels of chronic absence reflect that positive conditions for learning are missing for too many students.



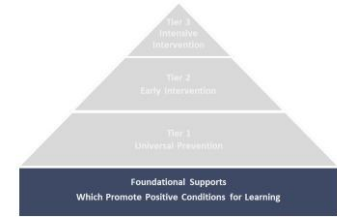


Multi-tiered System of Support for Attendance

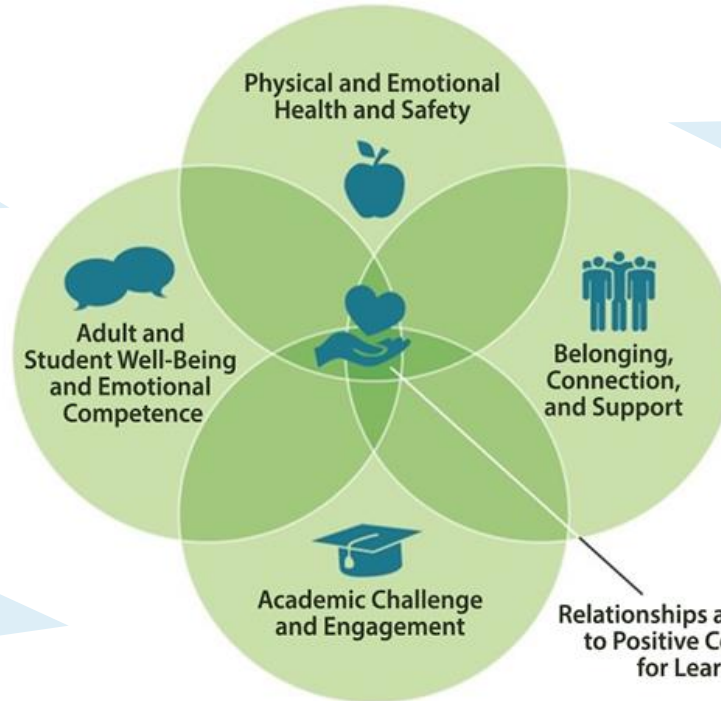


<https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/addressing-chronic-absence/3-tiers-of-intervention/>

Positive Conditions for Learning Lead to Students Being Engaged and Attending Regularly



- Restorative check-ins
- Access to health care & mental health supports
- Trauma-informed practice
- Staff self-care



- Healthy learning environments
- Welcoming, safe school climate
- Access to food & other basic needs
- Restorative circles

- Access to tech & internet
- Learning supports
- Project-based learning
- Credit recovery opportunities
- Internships/community service
- Alternative scheduling options

- Active student & family engagement
- Advisories/meetings to build community
- Enrichment & clubs
- Positive peer connections

Relationships are Essential
to Positive Conditions
for Learning



Write in the Chat:

In your experience, what helps students and families feel a sense of belonging, connection and support?

how-to guide to

relationship mapping

MAKING
CARING
COMMON
PROJECT



GRADES

K-12

IMPLEMENTED BY

School Administrators

TIME & RESOURCE INTENSITY



CAPACITIES PROMOTED

Relationship-building; Student confidence; Shifting school norms

Key Elements

See all students at-a-glance.

See who is well-supported and who needs support by adults.

Involve *all* adults in relationship mapping.

Key Benefits

Connect all students to at least one school adult.

A *Relationship Map* lists *all* students in a school (or grade, team, etc.).

A *Relationship Map* allows adults in a school to have a quick and visual snapshot of students who are well supported and who most need support. Knowing this, adults can then strategize about how to best reach out to students who most need positive and supportive relationships with adults.

A *Relationship Map* is most effective if *all* adult stakeholders with a connection to students participate in its creation. This includes administrators, teachers, counselors, sports coaches, mentors, community partners, and other school staff.

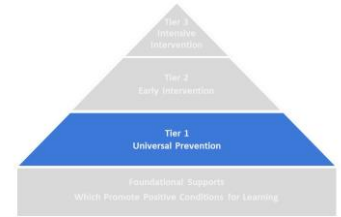
A *Relationship Map* helps identify students who do not already have adult connections and provides opportunities for adults in school to build positive relationships with those students.

Download in-person and virtual versions of this guide at:

<https://mcc.gse.harvard.edu/resources-for-educators/relationship-mapping-strategy>

Tier 1: Universal Attendance Supports

- ❖ Clear, concise and consistent communication about schedules and expectations
- ❖ Routines, rituals and celebrations related to attendance and engagement
- ❖ Personalized **positive** communication to families when students are absent
- ❖ Recognition of good and improved attendance
- ❖ Impact of attendance on whole child widely understood
- ❖ Connection to a caring adult in the school
- ❖ Every child and their family encouraged to develop a success plan that includes attention to attendance



Share in Chat: In your experience, which Tier I attendance supports have been most essential at your school or in your district?

It is an opportunity to...

✓ **Build Routines**

Daily attendance routines can reduce stress and create a sense of safety and security especially after chaotic transitions.

✓ **Increase Engagement**

Being in school helps build relationships with peers and school staff that nurture engagement.

✓ **Provide Access to resources**

Schools provide access to meals, health and mental health services, tutoring, mentoring, technology, extracurriculars (sports, clubs, music, etc.), afterschool and summer programs.

✓ **Support Learning**

Showing up to school regularly helps students become proficient in reading and math and graduate from high school.

<https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/toolkits/showing-up-matters-for-real/>



Forging Partnerships with Families to Support Engagement and Attendance

- ✓ Engage in two-way, supportive communications about attendance and engagement throughout the school year
- ✓ Provide tailored, personalized and caring messages to students and families who are chronically absent
- ✓ Offer actionable steps to improve attendance
- ✓ Make sure families receive updated health guidance, resources to meet basic needs as well as as support for learning at home



Additional Resources from Attendance Works



Handouts for Families

- ✓ Preschool, Elementary & Secondary Grades
- ✓ Available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog and Creole

<https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/handouts-for-families/>

Sign up for the 2023 Attendance Awareness Campaign

<https://awareness.attendanceworks.org/contact/aam-updates/>



Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

DID YOU KNOW?




- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just one or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Eventually good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and college.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your children to their teachers and classmates before school starts.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.
- Keep in mind that complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home. If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- If your child must stay home due to illness, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home

When Do Absences Become a Problem?


	CHRONIC ABSENCE 18 or more days
	WARNING SIGNS 10 to 17 days
	SATISFACTORY 9 or fewer absences

Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

Visit Attendance Works at www.attendanceworks.org for free downloadable resources and tools!

Encourage All Students and Families to Create a Success Plan

MY FAMILY'S HELP BANK



- My Family:** List who lives in your house.
- Everyday Helpers:** Identify who you can call on to help drop your child off or who can pick him or her up when you cannot. These are people like friends, neighbors and relatives who can help regularly.
- Occasional Helpers:** Identify people who probably cannot help every day, but can help in a pinch. Maybe it's a godparent, a relative or a friend who lives outside your neighborhood but can be there for short visits.
- Potential Helpers:** Identify people who are part of your school community, church or neighborhood who are able to help if you ask.

1. My Family: _____

2. Everyday Helpers: _____

3. Occasional Helpers: _____

4. Potential Helpers: _____

If I need help getting my child to and from school, I will ask the following people to be our back-up:

Name: _____ Best Contact Number: _____

Name: _____ Best Contact Number: _____

Name: _____ Best Contact Number: _____

- ✓ Set attendance goals
- ✓ Make backup plans
- ✓ Track absences
- ✓ Recognize success!

2017-2018 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

September					November				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

MY CHILD'S ATTENDANCE SUCCESS PLAN

Use child's name _____ date _____
 Use child's ID number _____ date _____
 Use grade to determine our child's attendance. I will record our child's absences on _____ in the area of the page. If a final absence is satisfactory attendance.

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES TO REACH MY CHILD'S ATTENDANCE GOALS

- I will talk to my child about how going to school every day will help them do well in school and achieve their biggest dream.
- I will keep an attendance chart at home. At the end of the week, I will recognize my child for attending school every day.
- If a visit to the park, a new book, a bank from being absent, a special treat.
- I will make sure my child is as happy as possible and that the consequences are fair.
- If my child reaches a milestone in behavior, and another milestone has been added, I will make sure that the consequences are fair.
- I will make sure that the consequences are fair and that the consequences have been added.
- I will make sure that the consequences are fair and that the consequences have been added.

<http://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/student-attendance-success-plans/>

Check out our health guidance!



Health Guidance for Going to School

Showing up to school every day is critical for children's well-being, engagement and learning.

Make sure to send children to school if they are:

- Generally healthy and well.
- Participating in usual day-to-day activities.
- Children can even go to school if they:
 - Have a mild cold, which may include a runny nose and/or cough.
 - Have eye drainage without fever, eye pain or eyelid redness.
 - Have a mild stomachache.
 - Have a mild rash with no other symptoms.
 - Have head lice. Though they are annoying and should be treated, lice are not a reason to exclude a child from school.
 - Haven't had a fever overnight and they have not taken fever-reducing medicine during that time.

Avoid keeping children at home unless they are too sick to participate. Please see the back of this handout for details. Note that in most situations, a health-care provider's note is not needed to return.

Children may also avoid school due to anxiety (symptoms may include decreased appetite, feeling tired, stomachache, headache etc). If you are worried that your child may be suffering from anxiety, talk with your teacher, the school nurse, social worker or other school staff to discuss the challenge and identify what can help your child stay in school.

If your child has a compromised immune system or is at high risk for complications from common illnesses, please talk to your school (school nurse if available) about developing a plan with you and your child's health-care provider to keep your child healthy and safe while attending school.

Please note: This document is not meant to take the place of local health department/school district guidance including about contagious illnesses such as Covid-19 and the flu.



Reasons to keep me home from school and what needs to happen before I can return

What is my symptom?	When should I stay home and when to seek medical care?	When can I return to school?
Fever	I have a fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher. Seek medical care if I have fever and any of the following: ear pain, sore throat, rash, stomachache, headache or tooth pain.	If I have not had a fever overnight without the use of fever-reducing medication and I am feeling better.
Vomiting and/or diarrhea	If I have vomited 2 or more times in the last 24 hours. If my stool is watery and I may not make it to the toilet in time. Seek medical care if I have stomach cramping and fever, I have bloody or black stool, or I am showing signs of dehydration (tired and sleepy, dry mouth and not urinating at least once in the last 8 hours).	If I did not vomit overnight and I am able to drink liquids without throwing up. If my diarrhea has improved.
Persistent cough or trouble breathing	Seek medical care if I have a persistent cough, difficulty breathing or trouble catching my breath or if I develop a fever with the cough. These symptoms may be signs of Covid-19 or flu and should be evaluated by a health-care provider.	Once I am feeling better and I have been cleared for return by my health-care provider. If my symptoms were due to asthma, please make sure that I have permission to use breathing medication at school.
Rash	Seek medical care if the rash has blisters, is draining, is painful, looks like bruises and/or if I develop a fever.	Rash has healed or I have been cleared for return by my health-care provider.
Eye irritation	Seek medical care if I have eye swelling, eye pain, trouble seeing or an eye injury.	Once I am feeling better.
Sore throat	Seek medical care if I have drooling, trouble swallowing or a fever and/or rash.	Once I am feeling better. If I was prescribed an antibiotic by my health-care provider, then I can return 12 hours after the first dose, if I am without fever and I am feeling better.

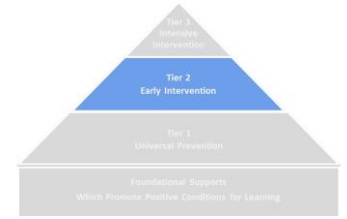
If you don't know whether to send your child to school or have specific concerns regarding your child's health, contact your child's health-care provider, a local urgent care or the school nurse.



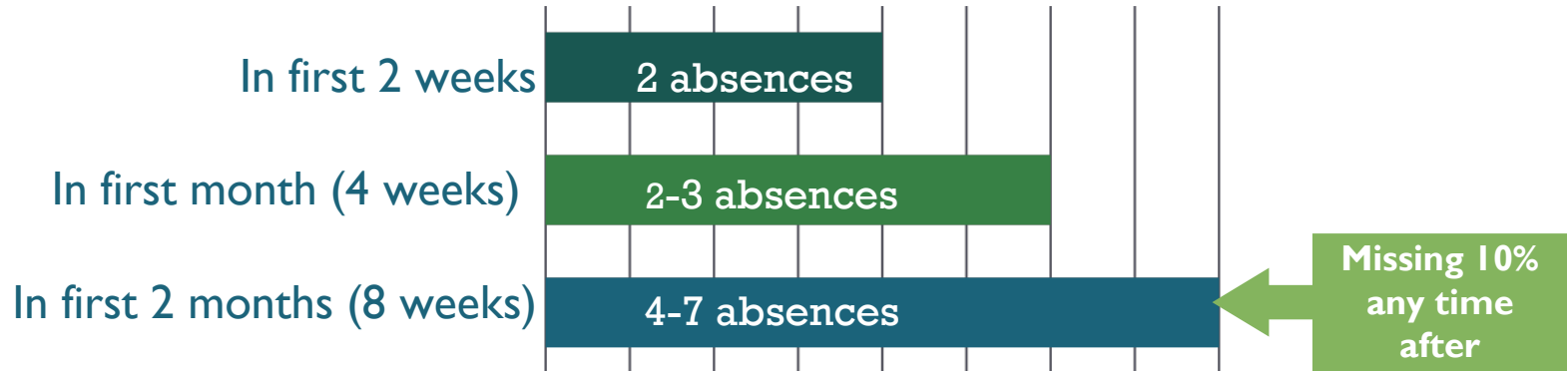
<https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/health-handouts-for-families/>



Identifying Students for Tier 2 Supports

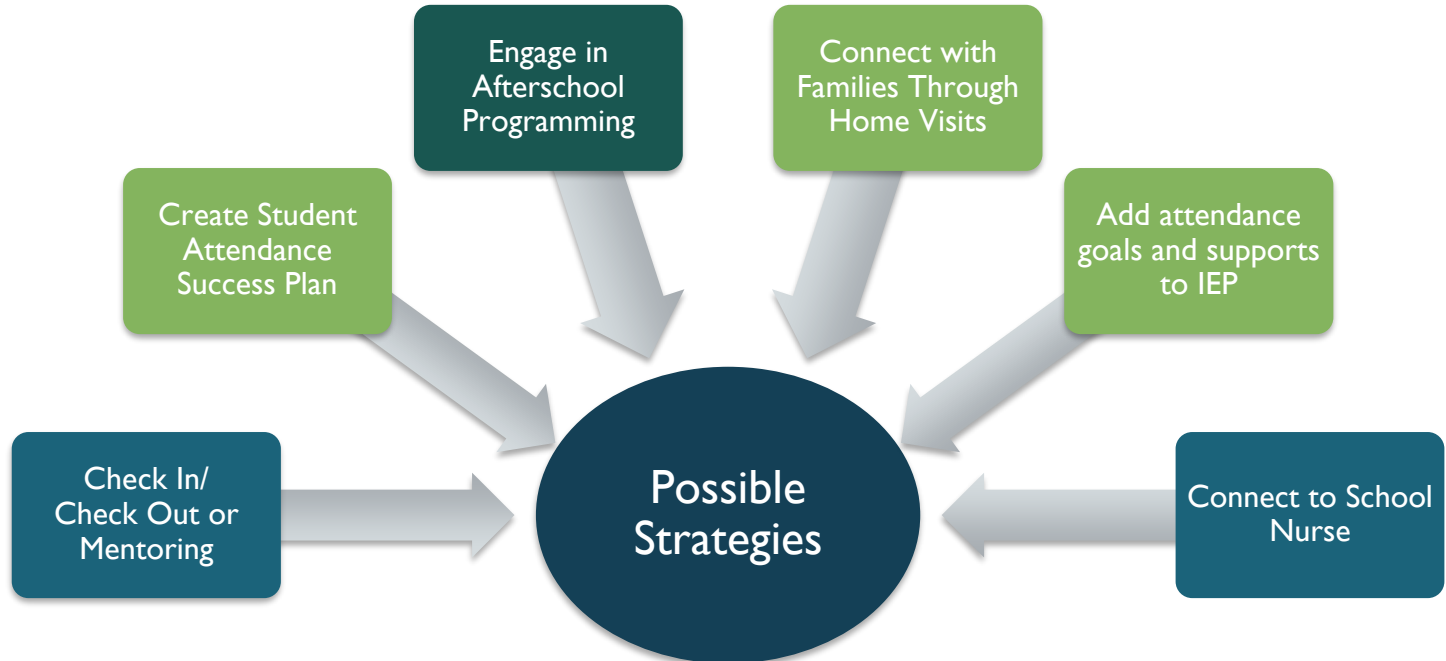
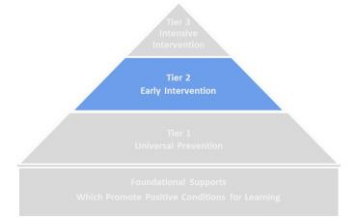


- ✓ Chronic absence (missed 10-19.9% of school) in the prior year.
- ✓ And/or starting in the beginning of the school year, student has:





Tier 2: Early Outreach and Support



Small Group Discussion

- **What Tier 2 interventions can be piloted/implemented in your school and community?**
- **How might you support the Tier 2 interventions?**



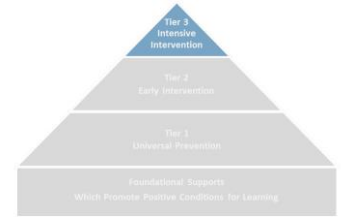
Ground Rules

- Turn on your video camera
- Briefly introduce yourself
- Raise your hand to speak
- Ask clarifying questions
- Create space for everyone to speak (and use the chat to express ideas)
- Person whose first name is closest to the letter “M” is the facilitator

Large Group Discussion

What is a Tier 2 intervention that you might adopt or expand in your school community?

Tier 3: Intensive interventions



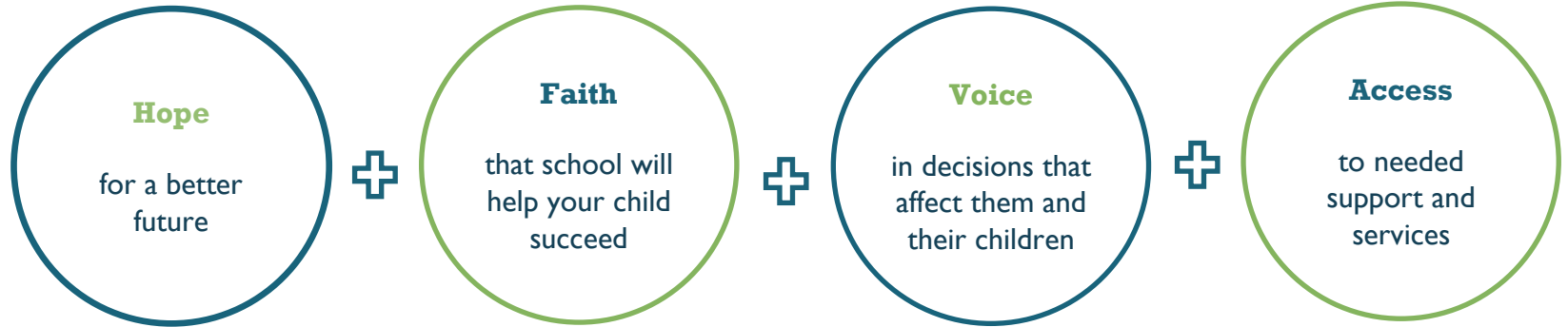
- ❖ Educational support champions / advocates
- ❖ Interagency case management
- ❖ Housing stability supports
- ❖ Student attendance review board
- ❖ Community-based, non-criminal truancy court
- ❖ Individualized learning and success plan leading to graduation
- ❖ Legal Intervention (*as a last resort*)

Mobilize the Community: *Need to Co-Create Solutions Through Caring Conversations*









Recognize that Going to School Reflects When Families Have...



Changing the Power Dynamics and Shifting to a Partnership Approach

Problem Focused	to	Partnership Focused
Blame Family		Contact Family to Build Relationships using an asset-based approach
Use letters and robo calls to communicate with families		Start with Listening to Families; Find out Hopes, Dreams, School Experiences, Assets, Needs
Focus on what student and family don't do		Highlight Strengths Even Amidst Challenges
Give Expert Advice about What to Do		Collaborate with Families and Encourage Practices that Build Upon Their Assets and Priorities

These concepts were adapted from this blog by the Search Institute: <https://blog.searchinstitute.org/six-shifts-better-family-engagement>

Reducing Chronic Absence Requires Addressing Underlying Challenges

Barriers

- Chronic and acute illness
- Family responsibilities or home situation
- Trauma
- Poor transportation
- Housing and food insecurity
- Inequitable access to needed services
- System involvement
- Lack of predictable schedules for learning
- Lack of access to tech
- Community violence

Aversion

- Struggling academically and/or behaviorally
- Unwelcoming school climate
- Social and peer challenges
- Anxiety
- Biased disciplinary and suspension practices
- Undiagnosed disability and/or disability accommodations
- Caregivers had negative educational experiences

Disengagement

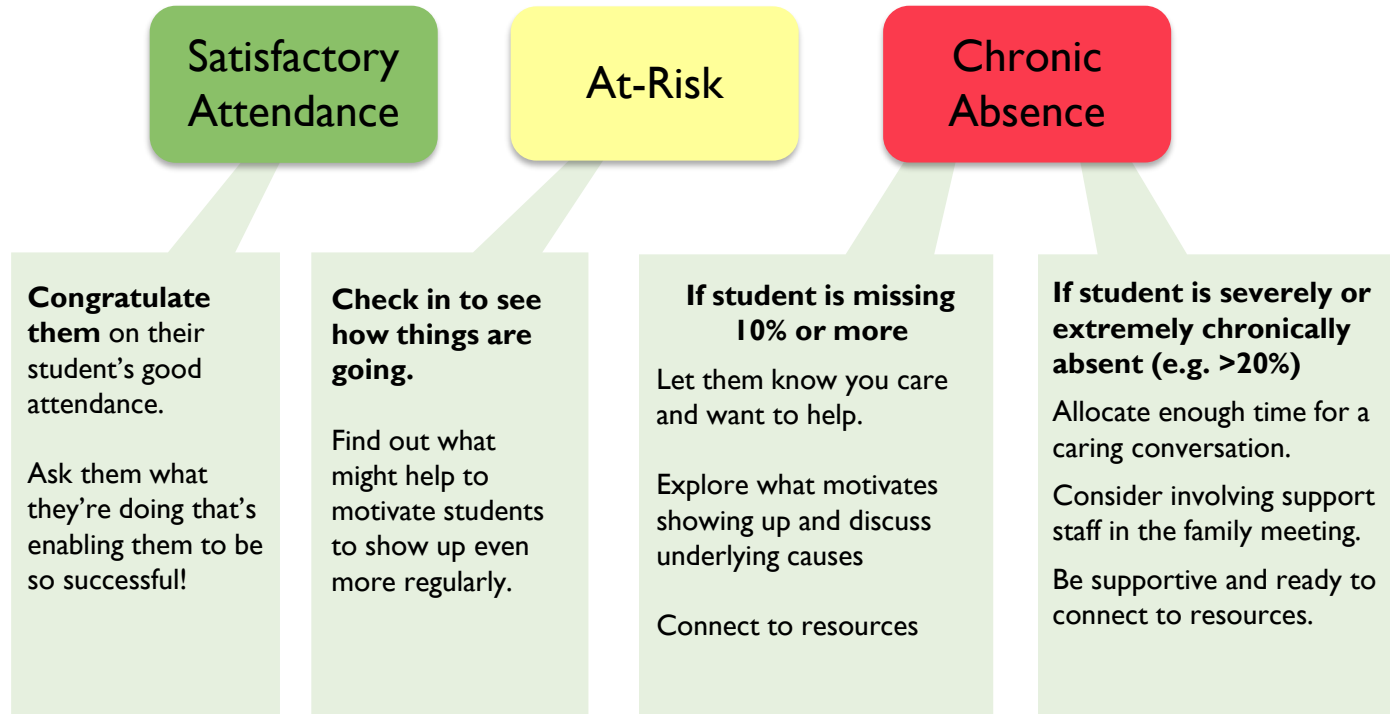
- Lack of challenging, culturally responsive instruction
- Bored
- No meaningful relationships to adults in the school
- Lack of enrichment opportunities
- Lack of academic and behavioral support
- Failure to earn credits
- Need to work conflicts with being in high school

Misconceptions

- Absences are only a problem if they are unexcused
- Missing 2 days per month doesn't affect learning
- Lose track and underestimate TOTAL absences
- Assume students must stay home for any symptom of illness
- Attendance only matters in the older grades
- Suspensions don't count as absence

<https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/addressing-chronic-absence/3-tiers-of-intervention/root-causes/>

Tailor Conversations to Students' Attendance Status

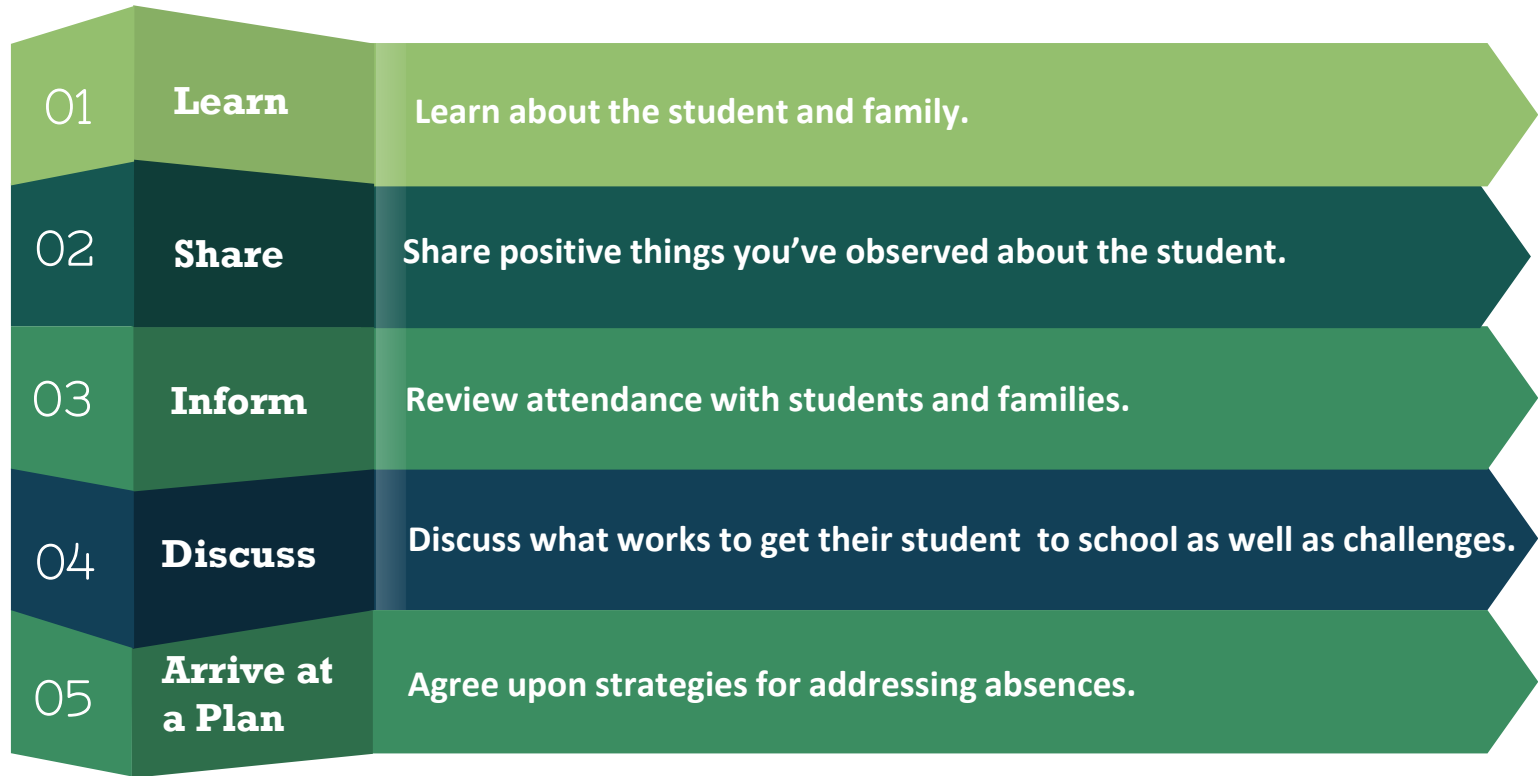




Sample Scenario: *Modeling Caring Conversations*

- **You are Alyssa's teacher.** You have noticed that Alyssa seems more reserved and less attentive than normal in class. She has missed 8 days of school in the two and a half months of school and is frequently tardy. Alyssa sometimes says she does not feel well but you aren't sure she is seriously ill. You have not been able to contact Alyssa's parent since the beginning of the school year despite multiple attempts.
- **You are Alyssa's parent.** Alyssa has asthma and you're scared that it's been getting worse. Sometimes her wheezing keeps her up at night so it's hard to get her to school on time. You are still worried that Covid could be a problem. She's started to ask if she can stay home sometimes because she feels lost in class and doesn't want to look dumb in front of the other kids. You have not found that teachers at Alyssa's school know what it's like for you to try to manage Alyssa's asthma and make sure that she's alright.

The “Caring Conversations for Attendance” Process



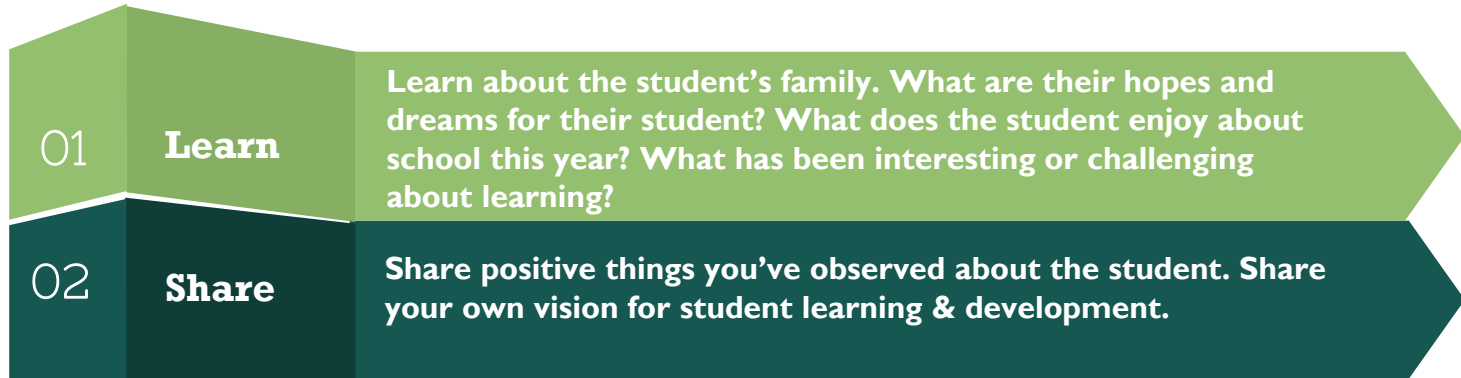
Adapted with permission from materials created by © High Expectations Parental Service, 2011



Steps 1 & 2: Learn and Share

Share in Chat :

- I. What excellent questions can you ask to learn about a student's family?
- I. What are some positive observations about a student you might share with the student or family?





Step 3: Inform

03

Inform

Review attendance with parents. Tailor conversation to student's level of absenteeism & inform them of possible impacts of missing school. How might poor attendance affect their hopes and dreams for their student?

1. Show absences marked on a school calendar
2. Identify patterns
3. Share what key concepts a student missed relating back to the hopes and dreams that the student or parents shared

2021-2022 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

September 2021							October 2021							November 2021											
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					
				1	2	3	4						1	2						1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		3	4	5	6	7	8	9		7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		10	11	12	13	14	15	16		14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		17	18	19	20	21	22	23		21	22	23	24	25	26	27			
26	27	28	29	30				24	25	26	27	28	29	30		28	29	30							
								31																	
December 2021							January 2022							February 2022											
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					
				1	2	3	4						1							1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		2	3	4	5	6	7	8		6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		9	10	11	12	13	14	15		13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		16	17	18	19	20	21	22		20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
26	27	28	29	30	31			23	24	25	26	27	28	29		27	28								
								30	31																
March 2022							April 2022							May 2022											
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					
				1	2	3	4						1	2						1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		3	4	5	6	7	8	9		8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		10	11	12	13	14	15	16		15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		17	18	19	20	21	22	23		22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
27	28	29	30	31				24	25	26	27	28	29	30		29	30	31							
June 2022							July 2022							August 2022											
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					
					1	2	3	4					1	2						1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		3	4	5	6	7	8	9		7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		10	11	12	13	14	15	16		14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		17	18	19	20	21	22	23		21	22	23	24	25	26	27			
26	27	28	29	30				24	25	26	27	28	29	30		28	29	30	31						
								31																	



Step 4: Discuss

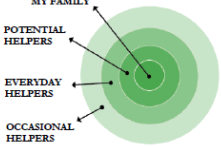
04

Discuss

Discuss what works to get their student to school as well as challenges. Explore options for making up for lost learning time in the classroom.

1. Learn about student motivations.
2. Discuss reasons for absenteeism.
3. Explore what would help reduce absences and increase engagement.
4. Identify opportunities to make up for lost learning in the classroom.
5. Use help bank to identify support systems.

MY FAMILY'S HELP BANK
CREATE BACKUP PLANS FOR GETTING TO SCHOOL



1. **My Family:** List who lives in your home.
2. **Everyday Helpers:** Identify who you can call on to help drop your child off, or who can pick your child up when you cannot. These are people like friends, neighbors and relatives who can help regularly.
3. **Occasional Helpers:** Identify people who probably cannot help every day, but can help in a pinch. Maybe it's a godparent, a relative or a friend who lives outside your neighborhood but can be there for short times.
4. **Potential Helpers:** Identify people who are part of your school community, church or neighborhood who are able to help—if you ask.

1. My Family: _____

2. Everyday Helpers: _____

3. Occasional Helpers: _____

4. Potential Helpers: _____

If I need help getting my child to and from school, I will ask the following people to be on back-up:

Name: _____	Best Contact Number: _____
Name: _____	Best Contact Number: _____
Name: _____	Best Contact Number: _____




Step 5: Arrive at a Plan

05

Arrive at a Plan

Assess strategies for addressing absences. Help students and families develop an attendance and learning plan. Offer referrals to services as needed and ask if there are other ways you can help.

1. Work with the family to identify specific steps that will help to prevent absenteeism in the future.
2. Develop and complete a plan for attendance and learning
3. Ensure that the plan includes any support that the school will offer as well
4. Provide a copy of the plan to the student/parent
5. Agree on a timeline to check in and see how things are progressing


© Attendance Works

MY CHILD'S ATTENDANCE SUCCESS PLAN

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES TO REACH MY CHILD'S ATTENDANCE GOALS AND HELP MY CHILD GAIN THE SKILLS TO DO WELL IN SCHOOL AND TO READ BY 3RD GRADE.

- Keep an attendance chart at home to track absences. Consider using the attached calendar.
- At the end of the week, I will recognize my child for attending preschool every day with _____ (i.e., a visit to the park, a new book, a special treat, a hug, etc.)
- Make sure my child is in bed by _____ pm and the alarm clock is set for _____ am.
- Find a relative, friend or neighbor who can take my child to or from preschool if I can't. I can list who can help on the Help Bank (attached).
- Set up medical and dental appointments for weekdays after preschool.
- If my child has a slight cold/flu, headache or allergy, and is not sick with a contagious illness including Covid-19, I will send my child to school. I will call the school or a health provider for advice if my child complains regularly.

To improve _____'s attendance, I commit to the following:

1. _____
2. _____

To improve _____'s attendance, the program commits to:


1. _____
2. _____

We will review progress to meet this goal in one month.

Family Signature: _____ Date: _____

Program Signature: _____ Date: _____

To learn more, please visit www.attendanceworks.org
Adapted from materials created by Early Works at East Bayles Elementary School in Portland, Oregon: <https://www.childnet.org.uk/resources/doc/worksheets>





Discussion

How and when can you equip others in your school community to have Caring Conversations?

Caring Conversations Professional Development Resources

	Key Points	Questions and Messages
1. Learn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather information • Ask open-ended, supportive questions 	<i>What is your vision for <u>student's</u> future? (ask parent and student)</i>
2. Share	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive observations about student so far • What you want students to accomplish this year • One goal is helping students acquire good habit of attendance 	<i>_____ is such a good listener. We love having her (you) in our class.</i>
3. Inform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress you've seen (start positive) • Areas where child is struggling • Review report card & update parents on child's attendance • Deliver appropriate attendance messages 	<p><i>_____ is excelling at math! and is making progress with reading. Reading remains the area that needs work.</i></p> <p><i>_____ has been late five times and has missed two days during this first month of school. Absences impede reading and overall learning progress.</i></p>
4. Discuss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges, attendance barriers • Learning at home activities • How to stay connected 	<p><i>What makes it hard for _____ to get to school?</i></p> <p><i>What helps ____ catch up on learning given their absences?</i></p>
5. Ask & Arrive at a Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any questions? • Is there anything you can do to support a partnership between home and school? • Make referrals to community resources 	<p><i>What questions do you have?</i></p> <p><i>How can I help you?</i></p> <p><i>Would it help you to work with...?</i></p>

<https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Caring-Conversation-Worksheet-2-16-22.docx>

Showing Up Together





Why Understanding the Perspectives of Students and Families Matter

- ❖ Students have untapped expertise and knowledge that can bring renewed relevance and authenticity to classrooms and school reform efforts.
- ❖ Addressing the challenges students experience requires considering their specific realities. The goal is to hear student opinions and experiences while attending school
- ❖ Understanding when many students and families experience similar challenges allows you to create scalable solutions.
- ❖ It ensures that the engagement strategies you create are inclusive of students and families' cultural norms.

Qualitative Data Tools

Gather information about why students do or don't attend school

- ❑ **Scan of Environment and Attendance Tool (SEAT):** Identify strengths and opportunities to promote positive school culture and strong attendance
- ❑ **Empathy Interviews:** Targeted, one-on-one conversations with a small group of students
- ❑ **2x10:** Relationship and trust building strategy; spend two minutes per day for 10 days talking with a student
- ❑ **Student Focus Groups:** Moderated small group discussions to explore experiences and perspectives
- ❑ **Attendance Café:** Engage parents in discussions about attendance
- ❑ **Student and Parent Surveys:** Ask about reasons behind their absences <https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/qualitative-data/>

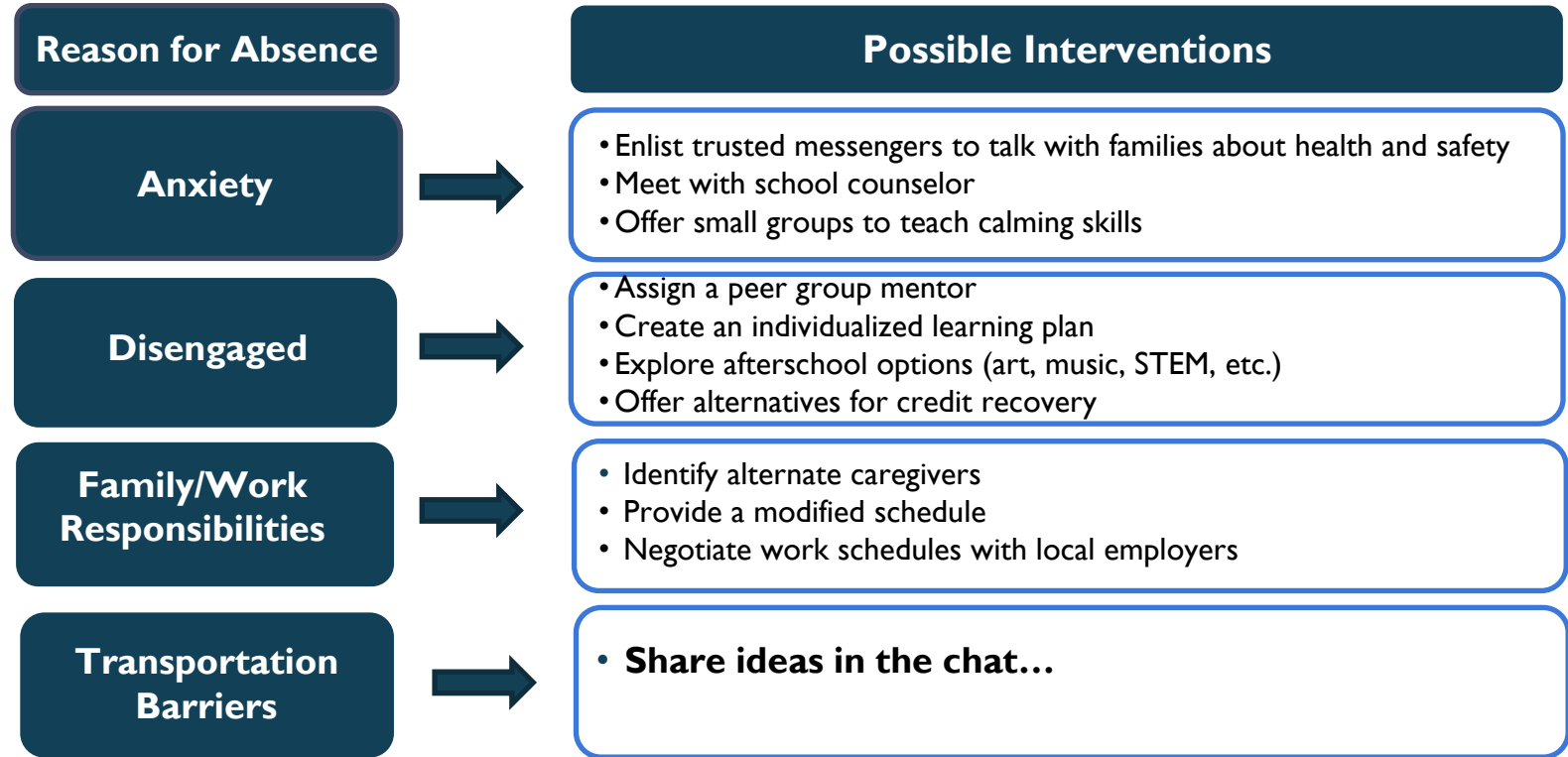




Reflection

How do you learn about why students miss school and what helps them show up to school?

Align Interventions to Reasons for Absences



Attendance Pyramid Worksheet (examples)

Sample form: <https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Pyramid-worksheet-with-EXAMPLES-revised-June-2023.pdf>

	Family Engagement	Positive Student Engagement	Behavioral and Mental Health	Physical Health	Academic Support	Extended Learning	Basic Needs
Tier 3: Intensive Intervention	Assign family advocate to coordinate supports	1:1 connection with adult advocate (e.g. social worker)	Individual plan developed with psychologist/social worker	Coordinated care plans with local health provider	Individualized learning and success plan leading to graduation	Accelerated credit recovery	Provision of targeted resources, e.g. housing assistance
Tier 2: Early Intervention	Targeted, positive family visits	Clubs Success Mentors Check-In / Check-Out	Small group counseling	Plans for students with chronic illnesses such as asthma and diabetes	Attendance strategies added to IEPs and 504 plans Tutoring and intensive classroom supports	Music or art program prioritized for students who have experienced trauma	Bus passes, walking school bus, bike program, or ride sharing services
Tier 1: Universal Prevention	Clear communications about attendance expectations Recognition of good and improved attendance	Connection to a caring adult (<i>Relationship Mapping</i>) Establish positive, caring, daily attendance practices and routines	Open-door policy for students, families, and staff to seek mental health services	Build time into routines for students and staff to wash hands Immunization clinic Health screenings	Learning objectives are clear and students can make up work after they are absent	Summer enrichment for every student	School-based clothing closet
Foundational Supports	Family resource centers Universal family visits	Grade-level advisories or morning meetings	Schoolwide mindfulness	Clean school campuses with good ventilation P.E. and recess	All students have access to challenging and engaging curriculum	Plentiful, high-quality afterschool programs exist in the community	Universal free meal program

Blank form: <https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Pyramid-worksheet-BLANK-revised-June-2023.docx>

3 Tiers of Intervention: <https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/addressing-chronic-absence/3-tiers-of-intervention/>



Report Out

Share in Chat:

What is a strategy or a resource you've heard about today that you are excited to try?



Questions from the Audience





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About Us

Attendance Works advances student success and closes equity gaps by reducing chronic absence. Operating at the local, state, and national level, Attendance Works:

- ✓ Advances better **policy**
- ✓ Nurtures proven and promising **practice**
- ✓ Promotes meaningful and effective **communication**
- ✓ Catalyzes needed **research**

Since our launch in 2010, we have become the nation's “go-to” resource for improving student attendance. To learn more, visit our website: www.attendanceworks.org