



ADVANCING STUDENT SUCCESS
BY REDUCING
CHRONIC ABSENCE



June 2015

About Attendance Works

A Note from the Director

From the start, Attendance Works has depended on partnerships for its success. Early on, key allies helped us build awareness of the strong connection between attendance and achievement. Attendance Awareness Month brought that to a new level with more than 50 national partners promoting activities in September.

This month, we're announcing our involvement in three new partnerships focused on children, health and learning. And we're forging new links with the public health and health care communities, who recognize that chronic absence is an important measure not just for school success but also for community health.

Hedy Chang
Director

Attendance Works is a national and state initiative that promotes awareness of the important role that school attendance plays in achieving academic success. We aim to ensure that every school in every state not only tracks chronic absence data for its individual students but also partners with families and community agencies to help those children.

Be sure to follow us on Twitter and Pinterest and like our Facebook page!



Donate

We express a special thank you to our colleagues and friends who have included Attendance Works in their charitable contributions. If you haven't had a chance, you can donate now by clicking:

DONATE

Whatever the size of your gift, it will provide us with much needed support to advance our work.

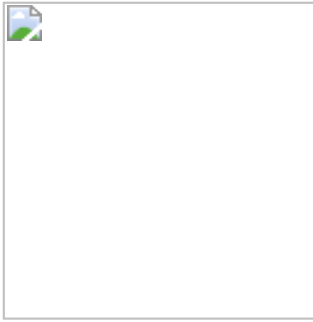
Webinar

Practice Spotlight

2016 All-America City Awards to Focus on Health, Attendance Solutions

The National Civic League has announced that next year's All-America City awards will recognize cities using community-wide health and education strategies that enable all children to succeed in school and in life. School attendance and healthy school projects are particularly welcome as the partners in the 2016 award program include Attendance Works and Healthy Schools Campaign.

Now in its 67th year, the All-America City award recognizes cities for their vision, plans for future work or projects that demonstrate innovation, inclusiveness, civic engagement, and cross-sector collaboration. [Learn more here.](#)



Attendance Works Partners with the Re(a)d Zone, More Hopeful Futures

Attendance Works has joined two partnerships aimed at improving early literacy. The Re(a)d Zone is a 14-month initiative that will reach more than 50,000 low-income children in the San Francisco Bay area and ensure they have access to books, engage in summer learning and attend school regularly. The initiative is sponsored by [The 50 Fund](#) - the legacy fund of the San Francisco Bay Area Super Bowl 50 Host Committee - and involves Bay Area [Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#) communities.

More Hopeful Futures, announced last week at the Clinton Global Initiative America conference, is a GLR Campaign initiative that will formally launch in 2017. Until then, Attendance Works will help to "road test" an enhanced package of screenings and supports designed to accelerate ongoing efforts to improve school readiness, school attendance and summer learning. [Learn more here.](#)

MENTOR Plans Week Focused on Mentoring and Attendance

To support Attendance Awareness Month this September, MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership (MENTOR) has worked with the campaign organizers to designate [the week of Sept. 14 as Mentoring Effect & Attendance Week!](#)

We know through MENTOR's [The Mentoring Effect](#) report that mentoring is proven to help keep students connected to school. MENTOR will be releasing a promotional toolkit this summer with social media messages to be distributed to all campaign partners and supporters to help amplify the message that quality mentoring can be instrumental to attendance and academic success.



Connecting Summer Learning and Good Attendance



Wednesday, August 12:
Finish Strong: Address the Attendance Gap for Teens
(11-12:30 PT/2-3:30 PT)

How can communities address the alarming attendance gap in middle and high school? Join Attendance Works and our guests from Get Schooled, MENTOR, and the Center for Supportive Schools as they share innovative and evidence-based strategies that help teens persist in going to school every day so they can finish strong. [Register here](#)

Toolkit



The Count Us In! Toolkit is the go-to resource for planning Attendance Awareness Month activities. [Download it here.](#)

Resources

Recognizing the importance of attendance starting in preschool, Attendance Works created a new set of materials aimed at preschool providers and families. [Download the family engagement tools here.](#)

In the News

[Grand Rapids Gets Behind Getting Students to School,](#)



The twin goals of improving school attendance and extending learning into the summer are driven by the same imperative: Children from low-income families benefit from more time in engaging and rich learning activities.

With Summer Learning Day coming Friday, June 19, we joined the [National Summer Learning Association](#) on a webinar last week to talk about how these goals can build off each other to help more children learn to read well by the end of third grade. That depends on ensuring that parents are informed, engaged, and supported. [Learn more here.](#)

Policy Spotlight

Forging Connections to the Health Community

Chronic absenteeism was featured in back-to-back meetings with health and public health leaders in May, underscoring the powerful connection between attendance and children's physical and mental wellbeing. Attendance Works Director Hedy Chang spoke before the [National Collaborative on Education and Health](#) about how absenteeism can serve as a metric for assessing both student success and community health.

The following day, Chang spoke to the National Coordinating Committee on School Health and Safety, describing how accurate monitoring of attendance data and intervening with at-risk students are instrumental for the development of state and local policies that improve student attendance.

Several health organizations have become Attendance Awareness Month partners and are considering approaches to reducing chronic absence.

Model Chronic Absence-Truancy Policy Developed

School board leadership is essential to ensuring that schools are paying attention to chronic absence data and intervening when students are heading off track. But not all boards know where to start or how to calculate the data.

The California School Boards Association [created a sample policy of chronic absence and truancy](#) that suggests the roles superintendents and principals should play. While the policy is designed for California districts, it can provide a template for other places.

California's education funding formula now requires school districts to track chronic absence, which the state defines as missing 10 percent of the school year in excused or unexcused absences. Attendance Works has developed [California-specific data tools](#) and worked with the state Attorney General's office and Eagle Software to ensure student data systems can provide

Schools News Network, May 29, 2015

[Michigan May Add Another Hurdle To Getting Welfare](#), Think Progress, May 28, 2015

[Summit speaker voices concerns over disparities in kindergarten resources](#), New Britain Herald, May 21, 2015

[Cranston schools continue battle against chronic absenteeism](#), Cranston Herald, May 20, 2015

[Seven Wichita elementary schools get grant to help address absenteeism](#), Wichita Eagle, May 19, 2015

[Study: Asthma Intervention Can Lead To Fewer School Absences](#), CT Now, May 18, 2015

Contact Us

Questions?

For more information contact: info@attendanceworks.org

the data more easily.

Research Spotlight

Research Links Pre-K, K Attendance

Children who go to center-based preschool or prekindergarten programs are less likely to be chronically absent once they reach kindergarten, according to new research accepted for publication. In "[Can center-based childcare reduce the odds of early chronic absenteeism?](#)" Michael A. Gottfried uses a national database of kindergartners to identify the trend across socioeconomic lines. Absenteeism was higher among children with poor health or who felt anxious and disengaged at school.

Attendance Works would like to express its deep appreciation to the foundations that have funded our work nationally and in communities across the country: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, The California Endowment, Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Community Foundation of Greater New Britain, Friedman Family Foundation, Kenneth Rainin Foundation, San Francisco Foundation, United Way Bay Area, Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation, Thomas J. Long Foundation, the Doug and Maria DeVos Foundation, the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation and Open Society Institute-Baltimore.

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