



Peer Learning Network Webinar June 30, 2011





Overview

- Welcome and updates – what have you been up to?
- Learn about research from Applied Survey Research
- Discuss emerging T.A. and Tools: new Chronic Absence Toolkit for City Leaders



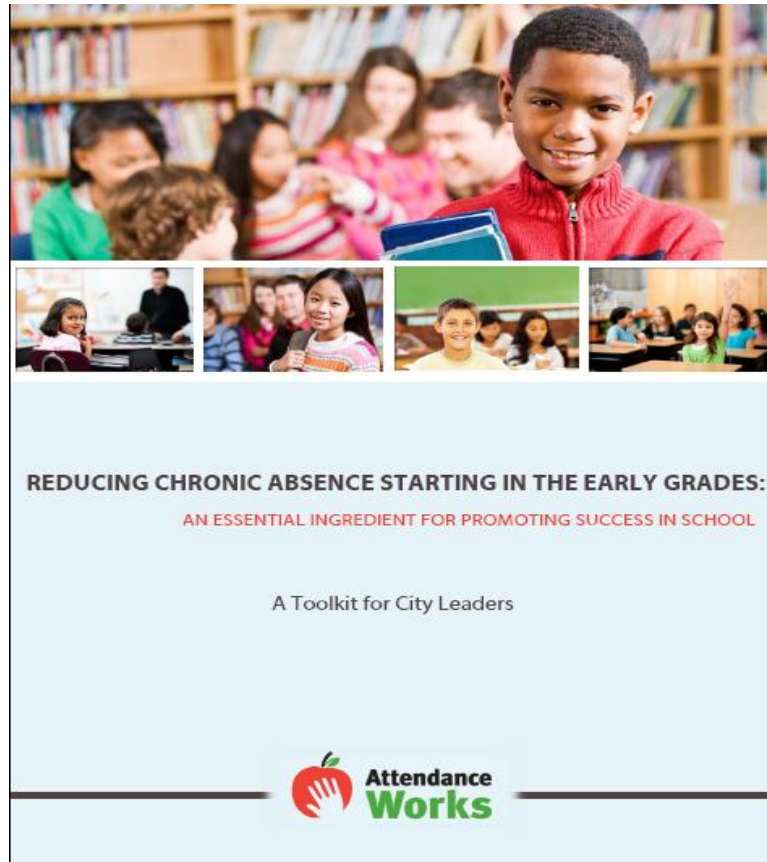
Introductions

- Name
- Organization and Geographic Location
- Share a short update on your work related to chronic absence. Offer **one** notable success, particular challenge and/or emerging pattern!!
- Please be focused, brief and not more than 1 minute.



TOOLKIT FOR CITIES

Now Available at
[www. AttendanceWorks.org](http://www.AttendanceWorks.org)





Overview

- Advises city leaders on the role they can take in reducing chronic absence across a city
- Audience:
 - Mayor's & their key education advisors
 - City department chairs and staff
 - Non-profits that collaborate with cities and influence educational policy



Overview

- Timed to launch with announcement of All American Cities 2012 Grade Level Reading Award.
- Awards will focus on communities that work to develop strategies for locally-owned community solutions in the three areas that have potential to drive improvements in 3rd grade reading: **school readiness**, **attendance** and **summer learning**.
- 6 • Letter of Intent due October 14, 2011.



Contents

- *The imperative* for city leaders to address chronic absence early in a child's school career
- *Five strategies* that city leaders can use to lead the community and school systems in improving attendance
- *Profiles* of cities and selected local programs that illustrate how chronic absence can be reduced effectively..
- *Templates and tools* for assessing data and identifying barriers to attendance
- Links to *additional resources* for assisting city
7 leaders in this important work



Five Strategies

- I. Get, share and monitor chronic absence data**
- II. Make student attendance a community priority**
- III. Nurture a culture of attendance**
- IV. Identify and address barriers to school attendance**
- V. Advocate for stronger policies and public investment**



I. Get, share and monitor chronic absence data

City Leaders Can:

- A. Ask school districts to conduct a chronic absence analysis.
- B. If needed, conduct or broker an external analysis
- C. Monitor data over time

(See pages 4 & 5 of the toolkit.)



II. Make student attendance a community priority

City Leaders Can

1. Create task force
2. Develop a presentation (*see Oakland example on page 6*)
3. Identify & highlight local success stories (*see NYC example page 7*)
4. Work with school leaders to disseminate the information



III. Nurture a culture of attendance

- A. Launch a public awareness campaign
- B. Recognize good & improved attendance
- C. Work with early care & education as well as afterschool providers to build a culture of attendance
- D. Enlist volunteer service to address attendance.



IV. Identify and address barriers to school attendance

- A. Bring together the right stakeholders to identify solutions
- B. Find cost effective ways to gather data & insights (e.g. parent surveys, focus groups, leveraging university resources)
- C. Engage school district and city agency leaders in identifying resources to address barriers.
(see page 12 for examples)



V. Advocate for stronger policies and public investment

City leaders can advocate for policies to:

- A. Adopt a standard definition of chronic absence
- B. Calculate and report on chronic absence by district, school, grade and sub-group.
- C. Establish school and district attendance teams to review attendance data.



V. Advocate for stronger policies and public investment

- D. Address improved attendance in school improvement plans.
- E. Use chronic absence prioritize allocation of relevant community resources to schools.



Reactions

- Questions?
- General Reactions?



Discussion

- How could /would you use this toolkit?
- What would help you use this toolkit?
- What else beyond this toolkit will city leaders need? (e.g. data crunchers, attendance software, experienced facilitators, consultants informed about C.A.)



TA for Cities

- We'll need to be prepared to offer T.A. to cities. We are considering the following t.a. possibilities:
 - Peer to peer exchange
 - Webinars for city leaders (if we see trends in the type of T.A. requests)
 - Referral to paid consultants

Is there anything else we should be considering?
- Do any of you currently provide TA to cities?



Next Webinar

- Strategies for educating/engaging parents and students about the importance of attendance especially as part of back to school activities.
- If any of you have such strategies, please let Ed Center know..