

ATTENDANCE COLLABORATIVE SUMMARY

GOAL

By June 15 of 2015 school year, the number of students in combined priority schools identified as chronically absent will be reduced by 15%

BASELINE MEASURES (2011-12)

- Average percentage of students in **priority partner schools** identified as “chronically absent”: 15.5%
- Average percentage of students in priority schools not reading on grade level: 52%

STRATEGIES

1. Data Analysis

- **Identify district “bright spots.”** Several Cincinnati Public School Community Learning Centers have made significant strides with regard to addressing chronic absenteeism, despite challenges. The collaborative’s data subcommittee will use district level data to identify those best practices and ascertain what is spreadable and scalable.
- **Refine priority schools to align with district needs:** As a continuous improvement measure, the collaborative takes into account the improvement of schools with regard to attendance and make adjustments to the “priority school list” accordingly, and on an ongoing basis.
- **Gap analysis of services in priority schools and communities that might impact attendance.** The collaborative will identify and analyze the wrap around services in each of the Community Learning Centers for affective in terms of cost effectiveness and implementation of services.
- **Analyzing [pre-existing] parent data on root causes (parent surveys, focus group data, etc.):** The collaborative will conduct parent surveys and focus groups as well as analyze local data and national research on the root causes of chronic absenteeism, and systemically engage partnerships and resources to address root causes.
- **Identify and influencing district/school policies that may impact attendance (e.g. transportation policies, daily schedules, etc.):** The collaborative will work closely with the district to address high impact/low cost solutions that will impact school attendances such as ineffective transportation policies, before and after school program, adjusting daily schedules, attendance reporting policies, etc.
- **Research strategies for addressing problematic state, district, and building level policies.** The collaborative will research state level attendance issues and utilize resources and positions to address state wide policies.

2. Investigate Community Learning Center Models

- Provide recommendations for spreading best practices, per data from gap analysis: Community Learning Centers are designed to be the hub of our neighborhoods, providing students with a quality education as well as being a significant resource for the entire community. The model focuses on cross sector community partnerships, that help serve the overall needs of students. Although many of the services are customized based on the communities in which the schools exist, there are certain aspects that can be replicated to better serve student needs. The collaborative will work with district and community leaders to ensure that the CLC model is, and continues to be, robust and effect for students and families.

3. Implement “attendance culture” strategies in pre-school programs

- **Head Start:** The Head Start Programs of Hamilton County and Northern Kentucky are working to stress the importance of attendance to the parents of preschool students. One significant measure will be to update Head Start Preschool transition packets to identify attendance as a critical issue. In addition, significant time will be spent in parent meeting to highlight root cause of chronic absenteeism, its effects on student learning at all stages as well as the long term benefits of establishing strong attendance behaviors in early years.
 - Parent Information Sessions: Convene information sessions for parents on importance of pre-school attendance as foundational behaviors for future attendance patterns.
- **Pre Schools Attendance Communications:** The Head start programs of the attendance collaborative will create/ provide print and online resources for families that address the root causes of absenteeism. This information will serve as a toolkit for parents and will later inform the development of an attendance app for the Read On! Initiative.
- **Data Collection & Analysis:** Collect/ Analyze attendance data on children who transitioned from Head Start & Preschools into schools and determine impact.

4. Communication

- **Develop district and building level communication strategy to promote attendance culture.** The collaborative will leverage and customize AttendanceWorks communication strategies, programs and initiatives to inform families and communities of the importance of attendance and the negative effects of chronic absenteeism.
 - **Alignment with Parent Engagement communication strategy to offer attendance specific deliverables:** All communication strategies will align with the Community Will/Communications collaborative to ensure wide spread messaging.