

Who Can Help?

In the schools:

- **Students and parents** can keep track of absences and look for ways to reduce excused absences (for example, avoid scheduling doctors' appointments or vacations when school is in session).
- **Teachers** can deliver the message about good attendance in the classroom, take attendance every day in a caring manner and create incentives to encourage showing up.
- **Principals** can create an engaging school culture, offer incentives and use data to identify students or, in some cases, classrooms in need of extra support because they are dealing with high levels of chronic absence.
- **PTAs** can organize parent summits to expand awareness of how families can monitor chronic absence and help each other get their children to school.
- **Superintendents** can track chronic absence data district-wide and hold schools accountable for absenteeism.
- **School boards** can proclaim the importance of attendance and seek better tracking of chronic absence data.

In local government:

- **Mayors and other elected leaders** can proclaim the importance of good attendance and convene a coalition to address absenteeism.
- **Social workers** can address family problems that are keeping students from getting to school.
- **Housing officials** can reach out to families with chronically absent students, help organize safe walks to school and publicize information (such as reminders about when school starts) that can help families avoid unnecessary absences.
- **Police officers** in dangerous neighborhoods can provide safer routes to school.
- **Transit agencies** can provide free passes to students who lack reliable transportation.

In the community:

- **Health care providers** can address chronic illness, such as asthma, and reinforce the importance of school attendance at children's annual checkups.
- **Afterschool providers** can monitor school attendance and work with schools to turn around chronic absence.
- **Faith-based groups** can volunteer to help parents and mentor at-risk students.
- **Businesses** can donate incentives for improved attendance and share the message with their employees.
- **National service members** (e.g. AmeriCorps & VISTA) can provide an extra shift of adults to support students at risk of dropping out.
- **Local foundations** can convene community members and underwrite the costs of attendance improvement efforts.
- **Media partners** can spread the word about the importance of good attendance.