**Ready, Set Go! Webinar Discussion Guide**

Below are a suggested set of key questions to prompt discussion about what they might do given insights shared during the Ready, Set, Go! Webinar. Feel free to use some or all to prompt a rich conversation about how to take action.

1. **Mapping the Gap:** The theme for Attendance Awareness Month 2015 is “Mapping the Attendance Gap” What can we do to map the gap?

Have we seen chronic absence data for the students in our community or state? If not, who is positioned to ask our school district or state department of education to find out if one exists or if they could conduct an analysis?

If yes, what do we know about the biggest attendance gaps in our local schools? What grades? What neighborhoods? What demographic groups—low-income children, special education students, racial and ethnic groups?

1. **Engaging School Leadership:** In Council Bluffs, Iowa, the school district is taking the lead on the attendance campaign. Are our local school districts on board? Is our superintendent part of the Call to Action sponsored by Attendance Works and the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading? How can we work more closely with our school district?
2. **Enlisting Community Partners:** In the Pittsburgh area, the United Way has taken the lead in pushing for better attendance. Which community partners can we tap to help us reduce chronic absence? Who’s currently helping in our local schools?

What should we ask them to do? *(Promote awareness, support incentives, volunteer mentors, help families overcome barriers like health, transportation and housing)*

4. **Seeking support from prominent leaders:** The California Attorney General along with other California state leaders have been really active in raising awareness on chronic absence and promoting solutions. Which leaders can we turn to in our state or our community to support a push for school attendance? (*Suggestions could include governor, lawmakers, state schools chief, human services secretary, attorney general, chief judges)*

What should we ask them to do? *(Proclamations, legislation or regulatory change, chronic absence analyses)*