



Dear MBK Stakeholder:

Thank you again to those who joined our recent MBK stakeholder call on the launch of **Every Student, Every Day: A National Initiative to Address and Eliminate Chronic Absenteeism**. Due to overwhelming interest, we were over capacity for the call – which is great news for students, as this is clearly an important topic to each of you – but we do apologize for any frustration. So as promised, we are attaching many of the resources we discussed, which we hope will help you further your local efforts to keep our kids in class.

The Gist: The Obama Administration is calling on states and local communities across the country to join in taking immediate action to address and eliminate chronic absenteeism by at least 10 percent each year, beginning in the current school year (2015-16).

The facts are simple – and the effects of chronic absences spiral dramatically over time for students:

- Children who are chronically absent in preschool, kindergarten, and first grade are much less likely to read on grade level by the third grade.
- Students who can't read at grade level by the third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school.
- By high school, regular attendance is a better dropout indicator than test scores.
- A student who is chronically absent in any year between the eighth and twelfth grade is seven times more likely to drop out of school.

As part of this initiative, the Administration is pleased to provide the following tools and resources, available immediately, to support your local work to address and eliminate chronic absenteeism:

- **Every Student, Every Day: A Community Toolkit to Address and Eliminate Chronic Absenteeism.** [This Toolkit](#), which includes guidance to help schools combat chronic absenteeism, from ED, HHS, HUD, and DOJ, is designed to support coordinated community action that addresses the underlying causes of local chronic absenteeism affecting millions of children in our Nation's public schools each year.

- **Virtual Summit to Help States and Communities to Identify and Support Chronically Absent Students.** The Education Department is partnering with Attendance Works, the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins University, and United Way to host **Every Student, Every Day: A Virtual Summit on Addressing and Eliminating Chronic Absence**, a virtual summit on November 12, 2015, to provide school districts and communities with strategies to improve school attendance, eliminate chronic absenteeism, and close achievement gaps, especially among youth who are, or are at-risk of becoming, chronically absent from school. [Registration is open](#) to states, communities, and schools interested in combatting this problem.

Additionally, for information on communities across the country that are working now to address and eliminate chronic absenteeism, please visit:

- Attendance Works at <http://www.attendanceworks.org/what-works/>
- Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins University at <http://new.every1graduates.org/tools-and-models/>
- School Turnaround AmeriCorps Program at <http://www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/task-force-expanding-national-service/school-turnaround-ameri-corps>
- The Campaign for Grade-level Reading at <http://gradelevelreading.net/our-work/chronic-absence>.

Finally, for more information about the Administration's **Every Student, Every Day** initiative, go to <http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/chronicabsenteeism/index.html>.

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring that every student is in school and successful each and every day. And don't hesitate to reach out with questions or ideas!