## Breaking Barriers to Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barrier to Attendance</th>
<th>Potential Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Parents do not understand that attendance in the early years matters for academic success. | ✓ Promote a culture of attendance that educates parents about the value of the learning/skill development that begins with school entry.  
✓ Work with child care and pre-K providers to emphasize the importance of attendance.  
✓ Offer orientation/education for parents new to the school that emphasizes regular attendance. |
| Students are not encouraged to attend school.                                         | ✓ Provide incentives/rewards/recognition for good attendance.  
✓ Remind students through personal calls.  
✓ Train trusted adult mentors and afterschool leaders to reinforce the importance of attendance.  
✓ Ensure that the curriculum includes engaging, team-based activities that students do not want to miss.  
✓ Provide academic support to students who are struggling so school becomes a place of success rather than a negative experience. |
| Students have chronic health or mental health issues that keep them out of school regularly. | ✓ Promote access to free and low-cost health insurance.  
✓ Create school-based health clinics.  
✓ Address environmental issues within the community (e.g., air quality, lead exposure).  
✓ Establish wellness policies that encourage healthy eating and more physical activity to reduce the negative health effects of obesity. |
| Students do not feel safe traveling to school.                                        | ✓ Add sidewalks or initiate walking school buses to help children reach school safely.  
✓ Establish community watch programs and ask community police officers to increase their presence during the hour before and after school. |
| Parents do not trust or feel comfortable with schools.                                | ✓ Conduct home visits to meet parents.  
✓ Provide a school liaison to support parents and address their concerns.  
✓ Personally invite parents to engage in the school as volunteers and offer a range of options.  
✓ Offer family services or activities in the school. |