

Mapping the Early Attendance Gap Webinar Discussion Guide

Below are a suggested set of key questions to prompt discussion about what your community might do given insights shared during the Mapping the Early Attendance Gap Webinar. Feel free to use some or all to prompt a rich conversation about how to take action.

1. How are other communities in our state celebrating Attendance Awareness Month? Check out the [Attendance Action Map](#) to see what others in your area are doing. Be sure to add your community to the map if you haven't already done so.
2. **Mapping the Gap:** The theme for Attendance Awareness Month 2015 is "Mapping the Attendance Gap" What can we do to map the early attendance gap in our state or local community?

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 these data exist or if they could conduct an analysis?

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

2. **Eliminating Barriers to Good Attendance:** The guest speaker from the Healthy Schools Campaign identified a number of health-related reasons why young children miss school. What are the health-related barriers to good attendance in our state and local communities? Which partners can we tap to help us reduce chronic absence? Who's currently helping in our local schools?

What could we ask them to do? (*Promote awareness, provide evidence about the impact of poor health on attendance, help families overcome health barriers*)

3. **Identifying Champions:** The speakers from California, Rhode Island and Utah shared about the leaders in their states who took action on mapping and addressing the early attendance gap. Who are the leaders in your community and how might you work more closely with them?