







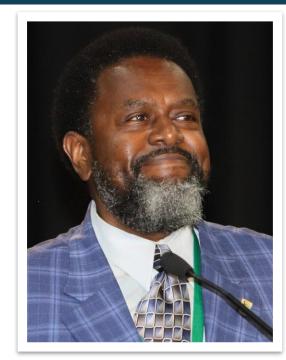
Health, Well-Being and Safety are Essential to Showing Up!

Attendance Awareness Campaign 2025
Webinar 2 of 4

May 14, 2025 www.attendanceworks.org



Welcome!



S. Kwesi Rollins
Chief Program Officer
Institute for Educational Leadership
Chair, Advisory Board, Attendance Works



Hedy N. Chang
Executive Director
Attendance Works



Elliott Attisha, DO FAAP
Senior Fellow for Health
Attendance Works



About the Institute for Educational Leadership

IEL's vision is an equitable society in which shared leadership effectively uses all available resources for the betterment of their communities. IEL partners with communities, working with local entities to fill service needs and support them in the long-term on their transformational leadership journey. IEL:

- identifies and implements innovative strategies particularly where educational, economic and social challenges or gaps exist.
- has developed, trained and supported thousands of leaders across various networks.
- works at the local, state and national level, investing in community leaders of all ages, stages and sectors.

To learn more visit: www.iel.org







About Attendance Works

Attendance Works advances student success in school and beyond for all students by reducing chronic absence. Operating at the local, state and national level, Attendance Works:

- Advances better policy
- Nurtures proven and promising practice
- Promotes meaningful and effective communication
- Catalyzes needed research

Since our launch in 2010, we have become the nation's "go-to" resource for improving student attendance. To learn more, visit our website: www.attendanceworks.org



Agenda

I. Welcome

II. Attendance Awareness Campaign and Key Concepts

- Kwesi Rollins, Chief Program Officer, IEL
- Hedy Chang, Executive Director, Attendance Works
- Elliott Attisha, DO FAAP, Senior Fellow for Health, Attendance Works

III. Key Concepts for Attendance, Health, Well-Being & Safety

- Chelsea Montgomery, Ed.S., Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Atlanta Public Schools
- Beatriz Barajas-Gonzalez, Ed.D., Director, Family Engagement and Cluster Lead,
 San Bernardino City Unified
- Kim Stanislo, DNP, APRN-CNP, LSN, NCSN, CPNP-PC, Chief Clinical Officer,
 National Association of School Nurses
- Heidi Schumacher, MD FAAP, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Vermont Child Health Improvement Program, University of Vermont, Larner College of Medicine

IV. Closing Reflections & Resources



Convening Partners AAC 2025!























Attendance Awareness Campaign 2025 Webinar Series Here Today, Ready for Tomorrow!

Note: Each session is accompanied by a discussion guide that can be used for webinar parties.

- Webinar I Teams Make all the Difference for Supporting Attendance April 2, I2pm-I:30pm PT / 3pm-4:30 pm ET
- Webinar 2 Health, Well-being and Safety is Essential to Showing Up
 May 14, 12pm-1:30pm PT / 3pm-4:30 pm ET
- Webinar 3 <u>Student Connectedness Fosters Attendance and Engagement</u>
 August 6, 12pm-1:30pm PT / 3pm-4:30 pm ET
- Webinar 4 Family Engagement is the Foundation for Attendance & Learning September 24, I2pm-I:30pm PT / 3pm-4:30 pm ET

https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/webinars/



Five Key Actions & Messages for Educators & Partners

- **Embrace** a problem-solving approach driven by data to improve attendance.
- * Engage parents and guardians as vital partners.
- * Create a safe, connected and engaged learning environment.
- Support the health and well-being of students, families and school staff.
- Involve the whole community in your strategies and tactics.





Thank You to our Campaign Sponsors for supporting this webinar!



Kaiser Permanente Thriving Schools brings together extensive health care expertise and partnerships with nationally recognized and trusted organizations to support schools in becoming a beacon of health in their community.



RaaWee K12 Solutions has been focused on chronic absence and truancy for more than 10 years. RaaWee's K12 Attendance+ provides tracking, outreach, 2-way communication, document preparation and data analysis that result in successful student attendance improvement.







We rely on contributors like you to help us keep Attendance Works resources free for everyone.

Join our movement and donate today!

DONATE







Slogan for 2025!

Here Today, Ready for Tomorrow!







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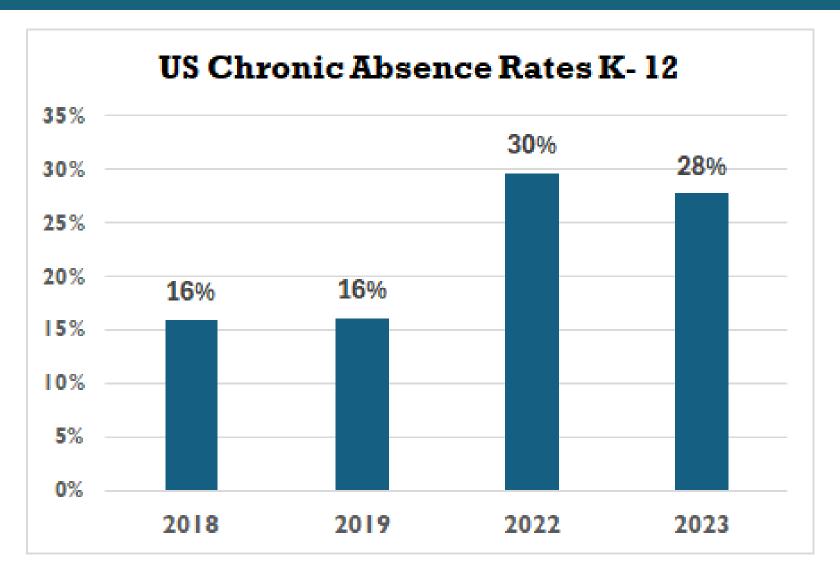
AAC 2025 Slogan!

Here Today, Ready for Tomorrow!

- Highlights the role that school plays in promoting student well-being and achievement
- Connects school attendance with realizing our hopes and dreams
- Emphasizes the link between regular attendance and a well-prepared, next generation workforce



National Chronic Absence Crisis

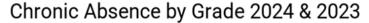


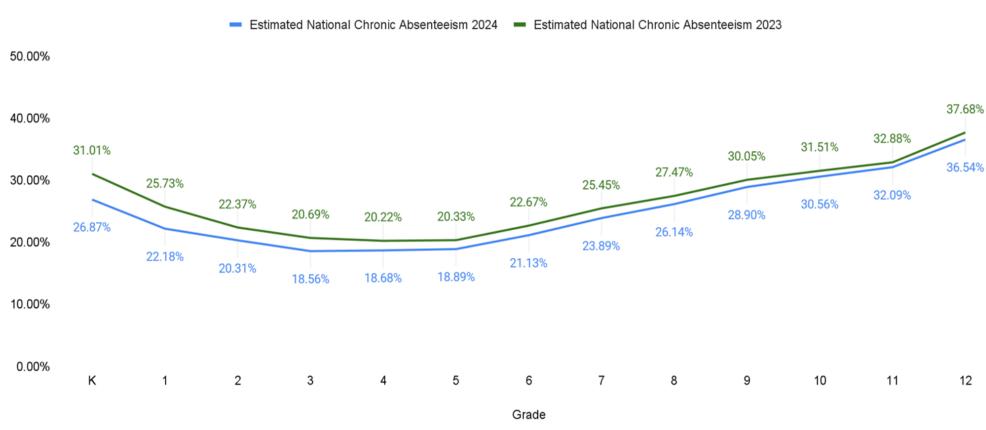
- The number of chronically absent students grew from 8.1 to 14.7 million in 2022. It still affected 13.4 million in 2023.
- 2024 data from states shows some decrease, but still elevated.
- 2025 data still not available.

Source: US Department of Education, Ed Facts



Addressing our crisis must start in kindergarten





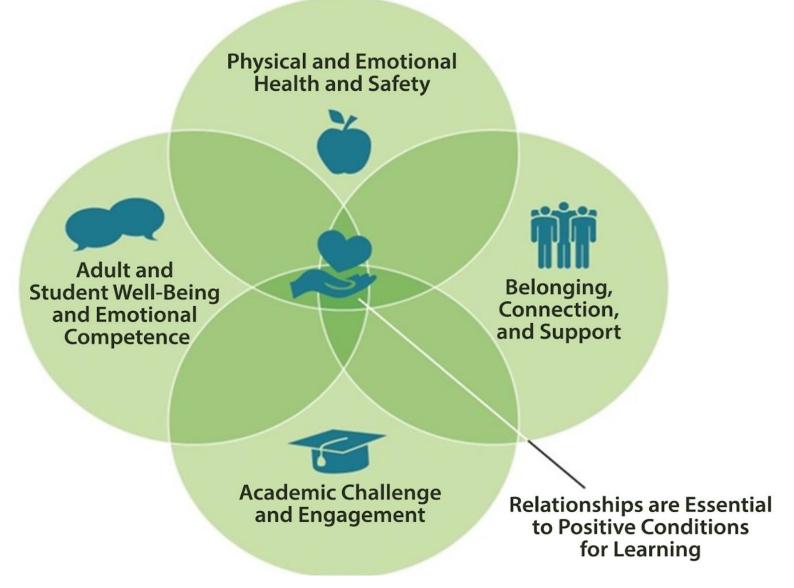
Note: These estimates are based upon data from 14 states (CO, CT, DE, GA, HI, IL, IN, IA, MI, ME, NE, OH, OR, WA) representing around 17% of the K-12 public school population

Attendance
Works®

www.attendanceworks.org

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High levels of absence reflect an erosion in positive conditions for learning

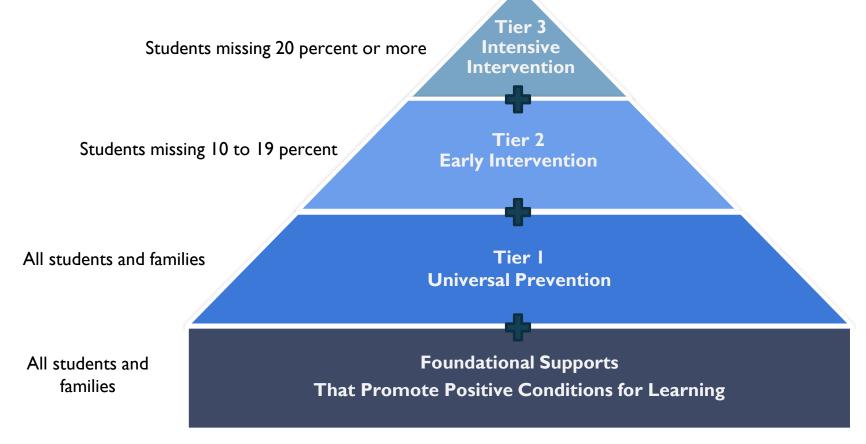








Multi-tiered support systems that begin with prevention are essential





https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/addressing-chronic-absence/3-tiers-of-intervention/

Root Causes of Chronic Absence

Barriers

- Chronic and acute illness
- Family responsibilities or home situation
- Trauma
- Poor transportation
- Housing and food insecurity
- Lack of access to needed services
- System involvement
- Unpredictable schedules for learning
- Lack of access to technology
- Community violence

Aversion

- Struggling academically and/or behaviorally
- Unwelcoming school climate
- Social and peer challenges
- Anxiety
- Unfair disciplinary and suspension practices
- Undiagnosed disability and/or disability accommodations
- Caregivers had negative educational experiences

Disengagement

- Lack of challenging, engaging instruction
- Bored
- No meaningful relationships to adults in the school (especially given staff shortages)
- Lack of enrichment opportunities
- Lack of academic and behavioral support
- Failure to earn credits
- Need to work conflicts with being in high school

Misconceptions

- Absences are only a problem if they are unexcused
- Missing 2 days per month doesn't affect learning
- Lose track and underestimate TOTAL absences
- Assume students must stay home for any symptom of illness
- Attendance only matters in the older grades
- Suspensions don't count as absence

https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/addressing-chronic-absence/3-tiers-of-intervention/root-causes/



Health-Related Barriers to Attendance & Learning







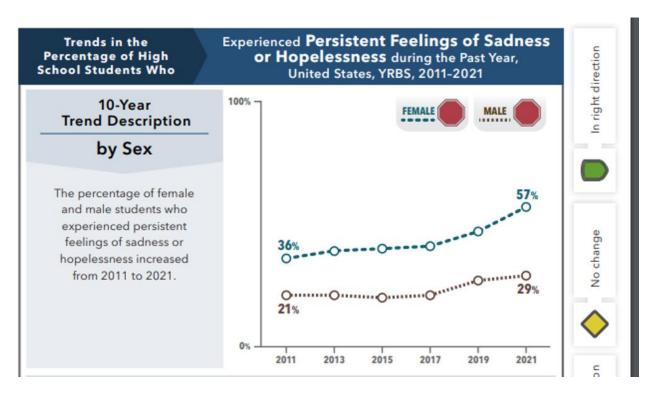
AAPD The State of Little Teeth Second Edition



CDC Data and Statistics on Children's Mental Health



Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2021



Overall: 42%

LGBTQ+: 69%

	US
Did not go school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school	8.6%
Attempted suicide one or more times during 12 months prior to survey	10.2%
Felt sad or hopeless (almost every day for 2 weeks or more in a row so that they stopped doing some usual activities, during the 12 months before the survey).	42.3%
Strongly disagree, disagree, or are not sure that they feel close to people at their school	38.5%

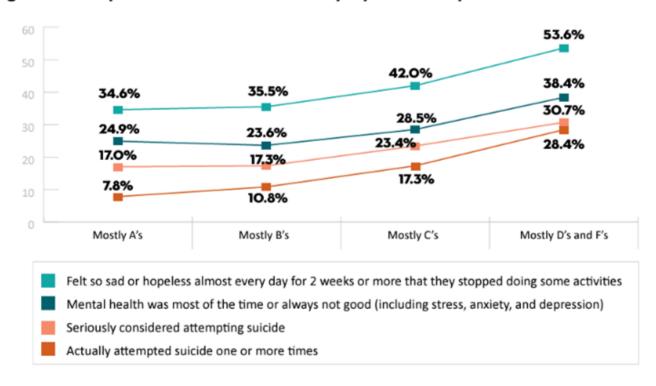
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data 2021



Mental Health and Academic Performance

Students who report lower grades are more likely to report symptoms of depression or suicidality.

High school depressed mood and suicidality, by academic performance



DC Office of State Superintendent of Education, 2021 YRBS Report



High school students who receive mostly D's and F's are 3.6 times more likely to report attempting suicide as students receiving mostly A's.



Reducing Chronic Absence Also Requires Implementing Evidence-based Health Interventions & Policy

- Infection Prevention and Screenings
- School Nurses
- School-Based Health
 Centers
- Mental Health Services
- Telemedicine
- School Health Physicians

- Indoor Air Quality
- School Breakfast
- After School Programming
 - Regular Play and Recess
 - Community Schools
- Home Visits
- Employee Wellness





Align Partners and Interventions to Reasons for Absences

Reason for Absence

Possible Interventions

Potential Partner

Anxiety

- Enlist trusted messengers to talk with families about health and safety
- Meet with school counselor, social worker or psychologist
- Offer small groups to teach calming skills

Local pediatricians

NAMI – online courses

Disengaged

- Peer to peer program
- Explore after school options (art, music, STEM, etc.)

MENTOR

Parks & Rec program Boys & Girls Club

Physical Health

- Messaging & resources for staying healthy and preventing illness spread
- School nurse to coordinate health supports
- Onsite screening & services (vision, hearing, dental and vaccines)

School-based health center Local Clinic / Pediatrician

Social Determinants of Health

- Assist with or provide resources for transportation to healthcare provider, food access and/or housing resources
- Telemedicine

Local health care providers
Medicaid Plans
United Way



Proposed Immediate Actions

Health (Physical and Mental) Focused Actions to Improving Attendance

- **Prioritize Prevention:** Support relationships and healthy habits. Maximize access to school-linked and school-based health-related screenings and resources.
- **Engage in Messaging:** Highlight why showing up to school regularly matters for well-being and learning, while providing consistent and up-to-date messaging on when a child should stay home.
- **Promote Teaming:** Include school health team members (school nurse, social worker, counselor, etc.) in the attendance team.
- Address Health Barriers: Identify, document and address health needs and barriers to attendance.



Promoting Health Guidance



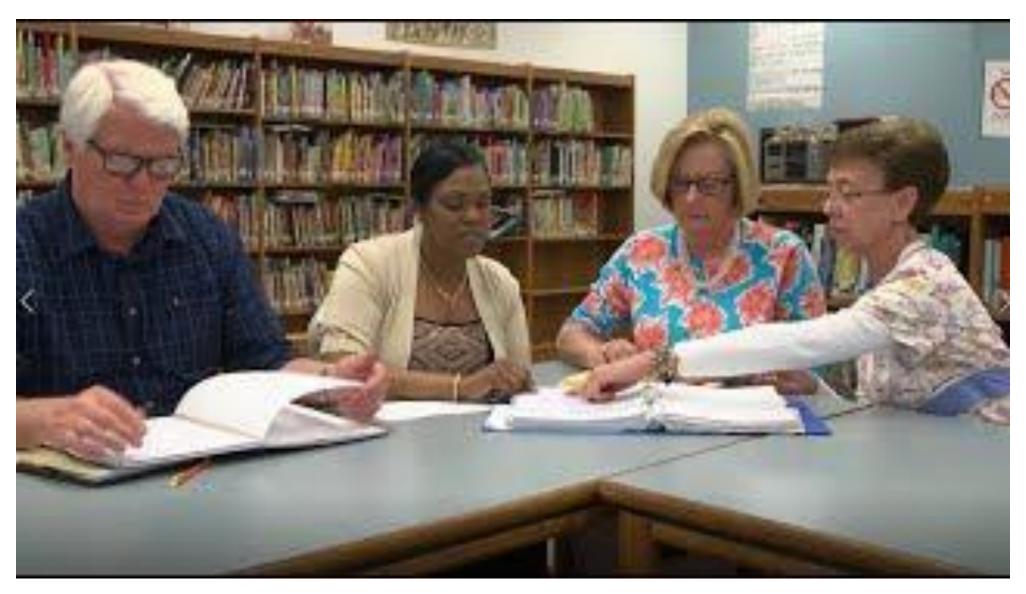
- Back-to-school packets
- Use technology and awareness campaigns
- Staff and parent meetings
- Peer to peer messaging
- Catalyze a conversation with the local health department

https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/health-handouts-for-families/



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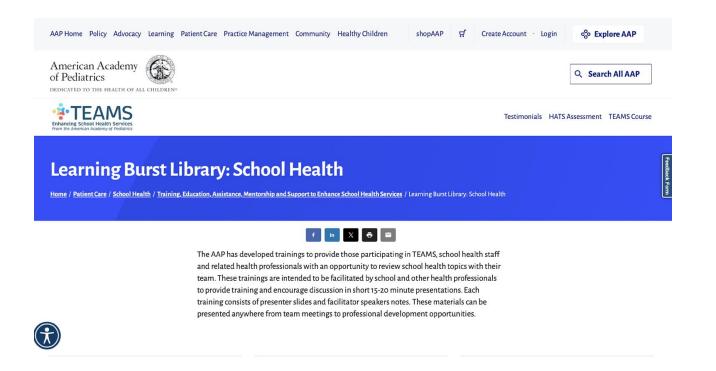
Attendance Team in Action







Learning Bursts!



Addressing Chronic Absenteeism from School

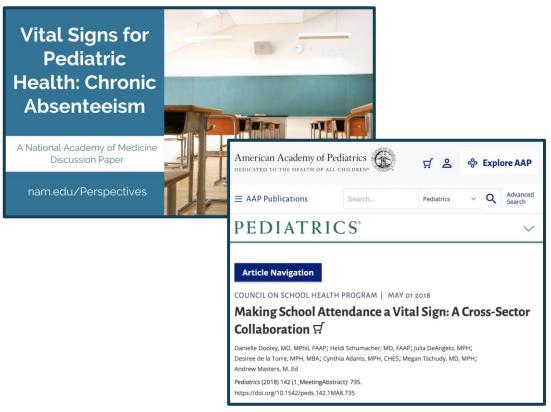
This learning burst, co-developed with Attendance Works, describes the major causes of absenteeism, identifies interventions to improve attendance and reduce inequities, and discusses how schools and healthcare providers can collaborate to promote school attendance. Lead Contributing Author: Attendance Works

Presentation Slides

Attendance Works



School Attendance as a Vital Sign!







Attendance as a Vital Sign

Annie Reed, DrPh, MPP

Annie Reed is the Executive Director of Thriving Schools. She has worked at the intersection of public health and public education for 15 years.

May 28, 2024





Panelists



Chelsea Montgomery,
Ed.S., Assistant Superintendent
of Student Services,
Atlanta Public Schools



Beatriz Barajas-Gonzalez, Ed.D., Director, Family Engagement and Cluster Lead, San Bernardino City Unified



Kimberly Stanislo, DNP, APRN-CNP, LSN, NCSN, CPNP-PC, Chief Clinical Officer, National Association of School Nurses



Heidi Schumacher,
MD FAAP, Assistant Professor
of Pediatrics, Vermont Child
Health Improvement Program,
University of Vermont, Larner
College of Medicine

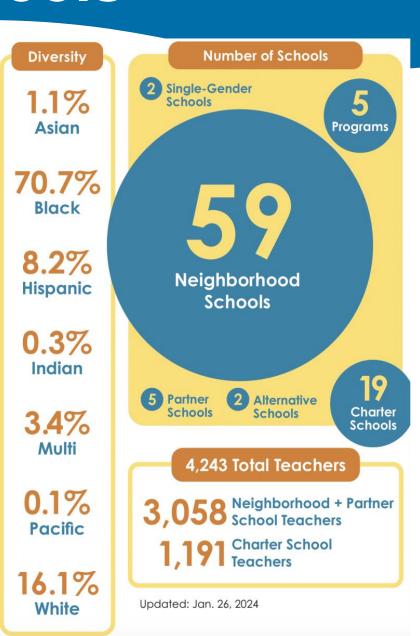


About Atlanta Public Schools





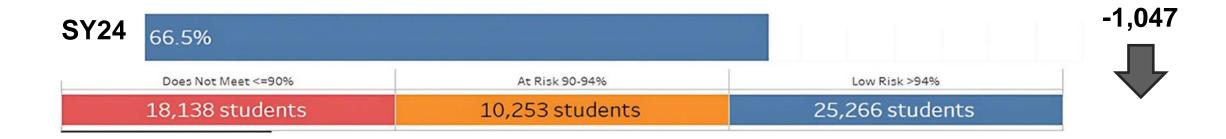
Students **Total Enrollment:** Neighborhood, Partner, Alternative: **Charter:**

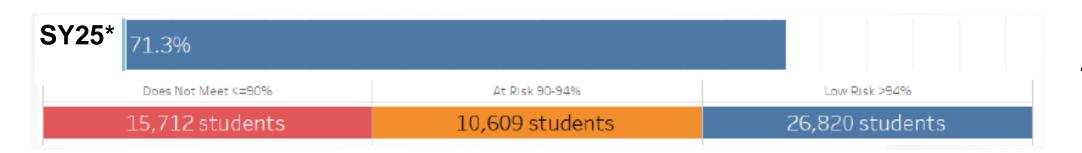


Incremental Improvements in Attendance



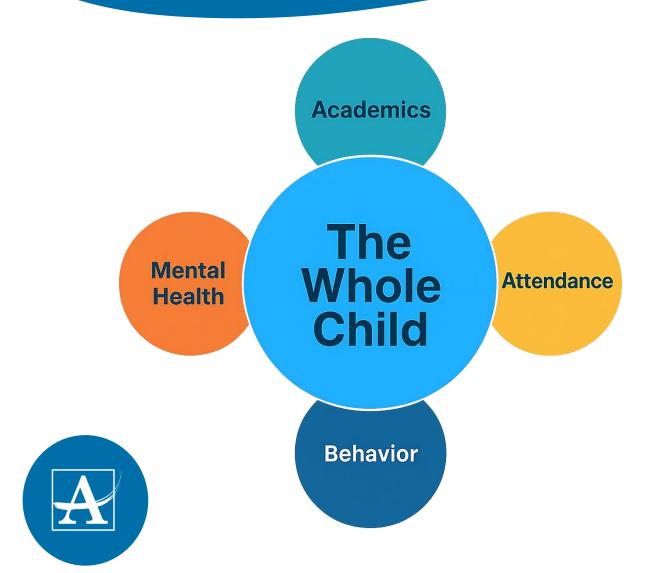






-2,426

Health & Attendance - Challenges







Mental Health

Tier 1:

- Signs of Suicide
- Talk it Out

Tier 2:

Small Groups

Tier 3:

- Mental Health Partners
- Clinical Therapists

Physical Health

- Nurse in every school
- School Health Clinics
- Immunization Support
- Vision Programs
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- APS Hub Store
- APS Cares/Find Help

Safety

- Say Something Anonymous Reporting System
- Car Seats
- Gun Lock Boxes
- Threat Assessment
- Evolv Screening
- Safe Passage
- Off-site Suspension Program
- SRO in every school

San Bernardino City Unified- Who are we?

QUICKFACTS



46,898 Enrolled Students



88.5% Graduation Rate



8,197 Employees



21.5% English Language Learners



73 Schools



16 California
Distinguished
Schools



23 Dual Immersion Schools



12 Golden Bell Award-Winning Programs



7 California Gold Ribbon Schools

San Bernardino City Unified - Who are we?

Chronic Absenteeism Rates

(California Dashboard Data)

Pre Pandemic- 18%

Pandemic- 53%+

2024- 29.3%

San Bernardino City Unified - Challenges

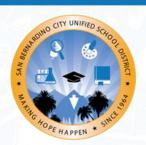
Top Health and Mental Health Challenges Affecting Attendance in SBCUSD

- 1. Chronic Absenteeism: Between 2016/17 and 2021/22, chronic absenteeism in San Bernardino County surged from 12.1% to 34.9%.
 - a. Pacific Islander students had the highest rate at 46.9%
 - b. Black students at 43.5%
 - c. Socioeconomically disadvantaged students also faced higher absenteeism rates (39.3%) compared to their peers (22.8%)
- 2. Mental Health Disorders: Approximately 16.5% of U.S. youth aged 6-17 experience a mental health disorder annually. In San Bernardino County, suicide is the second leading cause of death among ages 10-14 and the third among ages 15-24.
- 3. Homelessness: SBCUSD has a significant number of students experiencing homelessness, which correlates with higher absenteeism and dropout rates.
- **4. Social Anxiety and School Refusal**: The shift to virtual learning during the pandemic exacerbated social anxiety in some students, leading to school refusal upon the return to in-person instruction.

San Bernardino City Unified - Addressing Challenges

SBCUSD's Initiatives to Address These Challenges

- 1. Student Wellness and Support Services (SWSS): This department employs a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) to enhance mental health, create positive school cultures, and foster community relationships. They integrate trauma-responsive mindsets, restorative practices, and positive behavior interventions to support students' social-emotional learning.
- 2. Mental Health Providers: SBCUSD collaborates with mental health professionals to offer counseling, crisis intervention, and workshops for students and staff. These services aim to address emotional, behavioral, and social challenges that impact student attendance and performance.
- 3. Wellness Centers: The district has invested in wellness centers, such as the one at Indian Springs High School, to provide students with accessible mental health resources and support.
- 1. Community Health Education Workers (CHEWs)



SAN BERNARDINO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Making Hope Happen

Family Engagement Site Parent Liaisons

Community Health Education Workers (CHEWS)

24/25

Annette Limon Cajon (Venkatesan)

(Chantel Cervantes) (Jazmin Lizarraga)

Hillside (Berta Flores)

Holcomb (Vacant)

Kendall (Desirae Barrientos)

Harmon

Kimbark
(Renee Valenzuela)
Newmark
(Crystal Lopez)

North Park (Araceli Grant Diaz)

North Verdemont (Nancy Sanchez)

Palm (Trinket Quesenberry)

Vermont (Kimberly Navia)

Paakuma (Vacant) Richardson (Molly Horne) Shandin Hills (Margie Contreras) (Anna Miniares)

Davina Sandoval

Arroyo Valley (Bicondova)

(Kimberly Ruiz)
(Elizabeth Gonzalez)

Alessandro (Rosalie Cruz)

Gomez (Nisreen Mikhael) Henry

(Consuelo Mendoza) Inghram

(Elizabeth Montes)

Mount Vernon (Angelita Mayorquin)

Muscoy

(Yolanda Quintero Lomel)

Rio Vista
(Maria Ramirez)

Roosevelt (Elizabeth Romero)

Salinas (Vacant)

Chavez

(Alina Razo) (Veronica Garache)

King (Claudia Alvarez)

Victor Hernandez

San Bernardino (Gonzalez)

(Brenda Navarrette) (Jaime Rios)

Arrowhead
(Fontaine Coleman)

Brown (Carolyn Razo)

Davidson
(Minerva Canelo)

Lincoln

(Erika Campos)
Marshall

(Consuelo Mendoza)

Norton

(Laura Palapa)
Parkside

Parkside (Sandy Magdaleno)

Riley
(Anthony Aguirre)

Wilson

(Alejandra Gomez) (Deborah Castellanos)

Arrowview (Maria Solano Magallon) Golden Valley (Laura Palapa)

Sandra Valdez

(Acosta)

ICEC

Middle College (Ramona Gutierrez) (Jessika Cruzado)

Sierra

(Michael Kochisky) (Samantha Lopez)

San Andreas
(Vacant)
Virtual Academy (K-8)
(Vacant)

Alternative Learning
Center
(Allred)

Olivia Nunez

San Gorgonio (Cleveland)

(Maria Valenzuela) (Kevin Zendejas)

Belvedere
(Kimberly Castaneda)
Bonnie Oehl
(Joanne Pacheco)

Cole (Kimberly Castaneda)

Cypress (Adela Soto)

(Misty Thompson)

Emmerton (Claudia Lopez)

Highland-Pacific

(Vacant) Lankershim

(Lina Orocio Rodriguez)
Thompson
(Vacant)

Rodriguez (Maria Moreno) Serrano

(Brenda Navarrete)

Emily Sanchez

Indian Springs (Lundy)

(Nora Perez) (Erminia Nieves)

Bing Wong
(Maricela Nunez)
Dominguez
(Alma Arreguin)

Jones (Maria Verduzco)

Lytle Creek (Yvette Rojas)

Monterey
(Vacant)
Roberts
(Carmen Lio Camacho)

Urbita
(Eric Morales)
Warm Springs
(Vanessa Ybarra)

Curtis (Fannie Nava)

Athziry Portka

Pacific (Coker)

(Maria Valenzuela) (Rosalie Botello)

Anton

(Anthony Aguirre)
Barton

(Ashley Darbyt)
Bradley
(Angelica Chin)

Del Rosa (Adriana Gomez)

Fairfax (Elizabeth Luna)

Hunt (Gloria F. Rivera)

Del Vallejo
(Dymond Potts)
(Michelle Aquirre)

CHEWLorena Sifuentes

CHEW Lizzy Reyes CHEW
Tiffany Inda

CHEW Francisco Flores CHEW Jason Gonzalez CHEW Sara Cabrera

CHEWCamila Sandoval

Community Health Education Workers (CHEWs)

CHEW Background

- Established in 2017 through a community-academic partnership with SBCUSD, Loma Linda University Health, and El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center
- CHEW model was grounded in evidence-based practice of Community Health Workers in healthcare systems and tailored to fit school systems.







understanding of

the community





Outreach, community education and advocacy







Community Health Education Workers (CHEWs)

- PREVENTIVE and RESTORATIVE (full wraparound services and support)
 - Health, well-being, safety and behavioral health education
 - Build bridge between home, school and community
 - Provide home visitations for students missing school and high need
 - Resource navigation and bridging
 - Food & diaper distribution
 - Medical referral programs
- Streamline into Loma Linda University Health programs









Benefits of Investing in a School Nurse

- Improved Academic Outcomes: Schools with full-time nurses see lower rates of absenteeism, higher graduation rates, and fewer illness-related early dismissals.
- Increased Learning/Seat Time: RN school nurses return students back to class 90% of the time.
- **Time Savings for Educators**: School nurses allow teachers and administrators to focus on education, saving up to two hours daily for school staff.
- **Cost Savings**: Every dollar spent on school nurses saves \$2.20 in medical costs and lost productivity for parents and teachers. In urban districts, these savings can be as high as 1.67 per dollar spent.
- **Essential for Parents**: 79% of parents say the presence of a school nurse would influence their decision when choosing a school for their child.



Strategies



Communication

- Newsletters
- Multidisciplinary team active participation
- Parent outreach



Policy and Procedure

- Policy review
- Policy implementation
- Child Find



Education

- Students/families
- Staff training
- Chronic condition selfmanagement skills



Care Coordination

- Care planning
- Emergency planning
- Community resources / partnership



Clinical Care

- Chronic condition management
- Acute care management
- Create a trusting/safe place



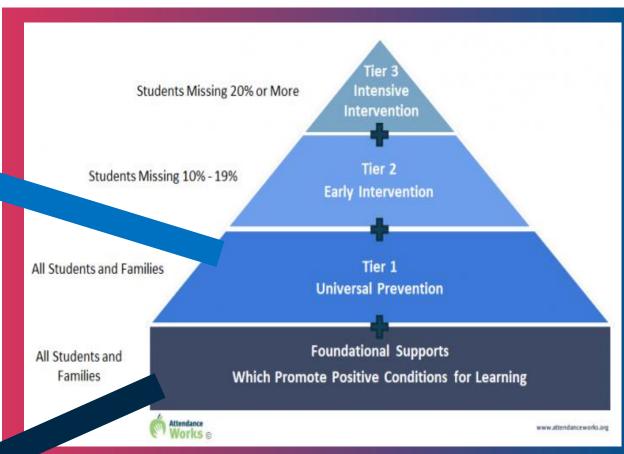
Data Collection

- Student clinic visits
- Student health concerns
- SDOH



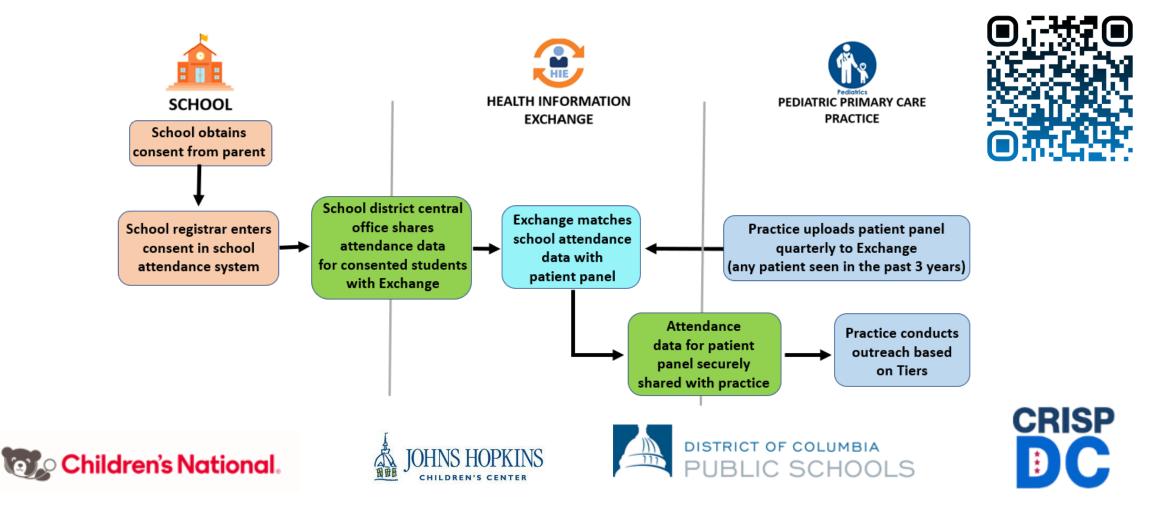
Building a Strong Foundation: The Role of School Nurses

- Education regarding healthy habits, benefits of attendance
- Collect and review data to identify trends or needs
- Build trusting relationships
- Engage with students, staff, and families
- Wellness planning to support learning
- Presence a School Nurse (RN)
- Inclusion of School Nurse on school teams
- Promote a healthy learning environment
- Promote evidence-based health policies





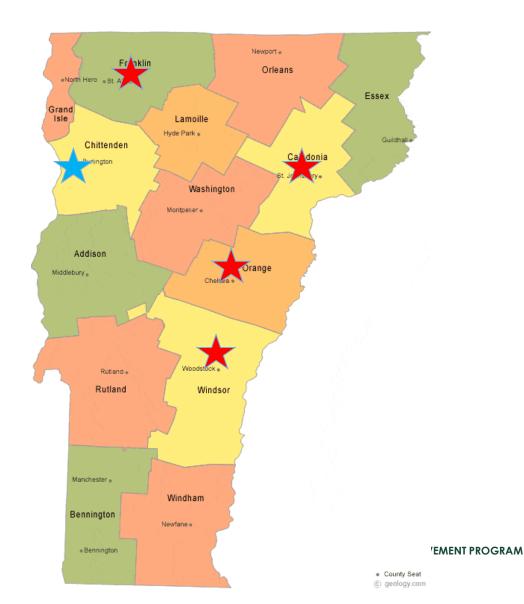
Case Study: Systems-Level Data Sharing in Washington, DC





Case Study: Cross-Sector Partnerships in Rural Vermont





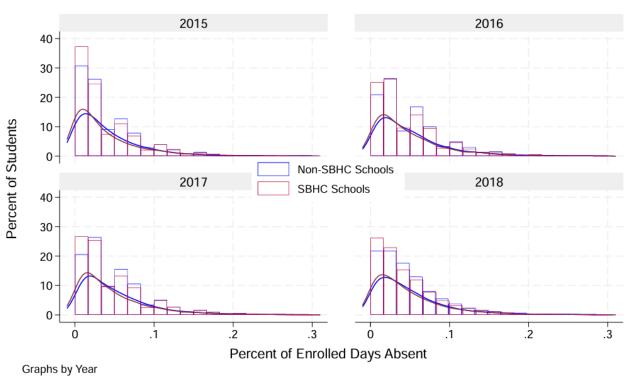


Case Study: School-based Health Centers



Bassett Healthcare Network

SBHCs Decrease Absenteeism: Results



Current analyses of 29 schools, 13 with and 16 without SBHCs



Q & A





PROMOTE THE CAMPAIGN

- ✓ Proclaim September Attendance Awareness Month building off our sample proclamation
- √ Share our free social media materials with local districts!
- √ Follow us on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and X
- ✓ Add an AAC badge to your signature line website or materials
- √ Access the Count Us In! toolkit

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Here Today, Ready for Tomorrow! Join the campaign and receive regular updates.

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Register today!

2025 National Community Schools and Family Engagement ConferenceMay 28-30 | Minneapolis, MN



2025 NATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
& FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE

May 28-30

Minneapolis, Minnesota

REGISTER NOW: https://bit.ly/csxfe25





We will post a recording of this webinar within 72 hours:

http://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/webinars/



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Please let us know how we can improve:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AAC-May-2025

Thank you!



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And special appreciation to our philanthropic partners!

Heising-Simons Foundation
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And individual donors