



## Family Engagement Is the Foundation for Attendance and Learning

### Attendance Awareness Campaign 2025 Webinar #4 Discussion Guide September 24, 2025

Consider watching the webinar or the recording together with colleagues from your school, district or community. Feel free to use some or all of the questions to prompt a rich conversation about how to take action.

#### Examine Data on Chronic Absence

1. What are the levels of chronic absence in your schools or districts? What percent of students are chronically absent? How many? Which grades or student populations are most affected? Consider using the Attendance Works [data tools](#).
2. Can you identify any schools or districts with comparatively lower levels of chronic absence? What do you know about their family engagement practices?

#### Family Engagement

1. What insights did you gain from the webinar about what works to engage families and caregivers? How might strategies need to be tailored for older versus younger students as well as family demographics?
2. Do you know whether families at your school or district currently feel engaged? If not, how could you find out? Consider using a [qualitative data tool](#), such as a survey or interview.
3. What programs do you already have in place to engage families in general? What are the program's strengths and weaknesses? To what extent is attention to attendance integrated into your family engagement efforts?
4. How might you better engage families in identifying underlying causes of chronic absence and developing effective solutions?
  - a. How can you strengthen opportunities to work on attendance through one-on-one conversations with families? Consider using this Attendance Works resource for [parent teacher conferences](#).
  - b. What are opportunities to engage parent leaders? Consider using [attendance cafes](#), [surveys or focus groups](#).
5. Which partners in your community can help you to engage families and address barriers to attendance? How might you engage them? Take a look at the Attendance Works [Making the Case](#) handouts.