



### A Place Where We Belong:

Improving Conditions for Learning





### Welcome



### **Ayeola Fortune**

Senior Director, Impact and Global Results

**United Way Worldwide** 





## **Convening Partners**













**HEALTHY SCHOOLS** CAMPAIGN













See all the state partners here: <a href="https://awareness.attendanceworks.org/state-partners/">https://awareness.attendanceworks.org/state-partners/</a>



# United Way's Focus on Attendance



- Attendance is a core strategy for our work in child and youth success and this means creating a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for students.
- Focus on attendance is often part of broader, multifaceted efforts to improve educational outcomes
- UW are boundary spanners, have strong communitybased relationships/partnerships, so are well positioned to lead and/or connect efforts
- United Way has partnered with the NFL to provide <u>Character Playbook</u>, an online program which teaches students how to resolve conflict and deal with peer pressure.
- Connect with your local United Way to understand how they specifically are working on education.



### Theme for 2019

### We Belong in School!







### 2019 Theme: We Belong in School!

### **Key Messages:**

- I. Good attendance helps students do well in school and eventually in the workplace.
- 2. Students are at risk academically if they are chronically absent (missing 2 days per month or 10 percent of the school year)
- 3. Prevent absences whenever possible
- 4. Students are more likely to attend school if they feel safe (emotionally + physically), connected, supported, and believe they can learn and achieve.
- 5. Relationship building is fundamental to any strategy for improving student attendance.



https://awareness.attendanceworks.org/resources/count-us-toolkit-2019/what-are-the-key-messages/



### 2019 Theme: We Belong in School!

### **Key Messages:**

- 6. Chronic absence is a problem we can solve when the whole community collaborates with families and schools.
- 7. The key to success is avoiding laying blame and taking a proactive, positive, data driven, problem-solving approach.
- 8. Families, educators and community partners need to monitor how many days a student misses school.
- 9. Reducing chronic absence helps create more equitable academic outcomes, especially for children who live in poverty, experience discrimination and have disabilities.
- 10. States can lead the way and encourage districts and schools to take action to improve student attendance.



# Welcome



Hedy Chang
Executive Director
Attendance Works

& Members of the Attendance Works Team





### Welcome, Poll, and Overview

#### II. Presenters

- David Osher, Vice President and Institute Fellow,
   American Institutes for Research
- Garry McGiboney, Deputy Superintendent, Office of School Safety & Climate, Georgia Department of Education
- Arianne Weldon, Director, Get Georgia Reading Campaign, Georgia Family Connection Partnership
- Lorri Hobson, Director of Attendance, Cleveland Metropolitan School District
- Lauren Bauer, Fellow Economic Studies,
   The Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institution

### III. Questions from the Audience

IV. Announcements





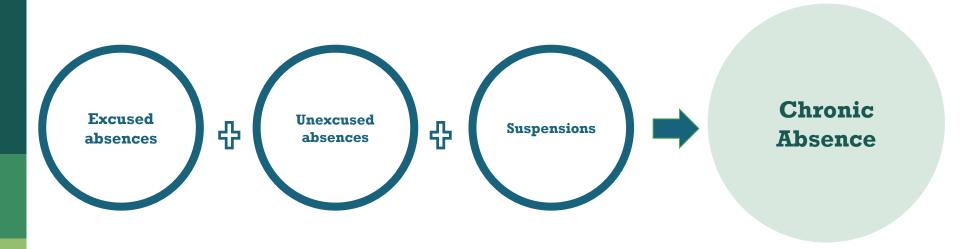
### What is your field of work?





### Defining Chronic Absence to Support Prevention and Early Intervention

Chronic absence is missing so much school for any reason that a student is academically at risk. To ensure it acts as an early warning sign, Attendance Works recommends defining it as missing 10% or more of school for any reason.



Chronic absence is different from **truancy** (unexcused absences only) or **average daily attendance** (how many students show up to school each day).





Student Attendance is Strongly Associated with Academic Success Chronic Absence = Warning Sign of Academic Risk

PK-1<sup>st</sup> Grade:

Students who attend regularly in the early grades perform better on measures of academic and social and emotional capacities.

3rd Grade:

Students who attend school regularly are more likely to be able to read proficiently by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Middle School Success:

Students who attend school regularly are more likely to have passing grades in middle school

High School Completion:

Students who attend school regularly are more likely to graduate from high school

College Completion:

Students who attend school regularly in high school are more likely to persist in college and graduate





# Solutions must be grounded in an understanding of reasons for absence

#### **Barriers**

- Illness, both chronic and acute – physical and mental
- Lack of health, mental health, vision, or dental care
- Family responsibilities
- Trauma
- Depression or anxiety
- Unsafe path to/from school
- Poor transportation
- Housing and food insecurity
- Frequent school changes
- Involvement with child welfare or juvenile justice systems
- Inequitable access to resources due to bias & discrimination.

### Negative School Experiences

- •Struggling academically and behaviorally
- •Ineffective or harmful interventions
- Bored
- Social challenges
- Bullying
- •Suspensions and expulsions
- •Harsh, biased disciplinary practices especially for students of color
- •Negative attitudes of parents due to their own school experience
- Undiagnosed disability
- •Lack of appropriate accommodations for disability
- Pressure for academic success

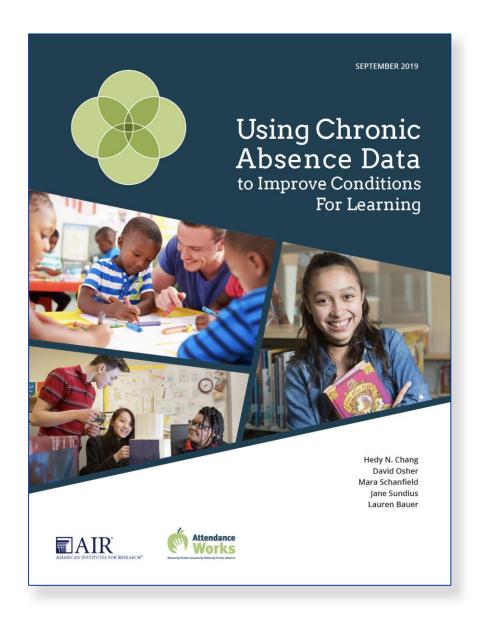
### Lack of Engagement

- Lack of or inequitable access to challenging, culturally responsive, engaging instruction & enrichment
- Lack of or ineffective academic, emotional and behavioral support
- No meaningful or negative relationships to adults in the school
- Stronger ties with peers out of school than in school
- Unwelcoming school climate
- Failure to earn credits/ no future plans
- Many teacher absences or long-term substitutes

#### Misconceptions

- Absences are only a problem if they are unexcused
- Missing 2 days per month doesn't affect learning
- Sporadic absences aren't a problem
- Attendance only matters in the older grades
- Suspensions are not relevant





### **New Research Brief!**

Release date: September 10, 2019

# Using Chronic Absence Data

to Improve
Conditions for Learning &
Student Outcomes

https://www.attendanceworks.org/usingchronic-absence-data-to-improveconditions-for-learning/



# American Institutes for Research



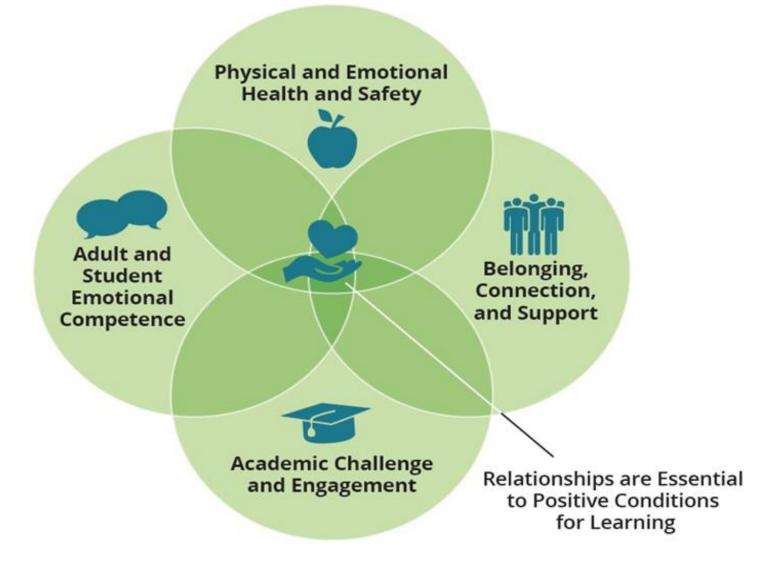
### **David Osher**

Vice President and Institute Fellow

American Institutes for Research



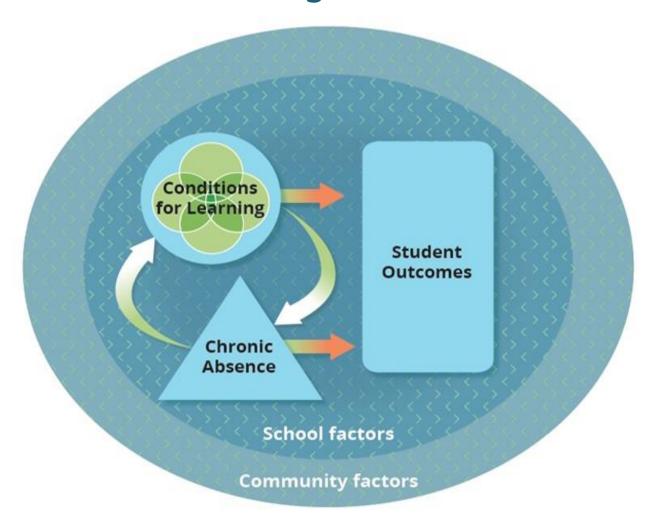
### What are Conditions for Learning?







# What is the Connection Between Conditions for Learning and Chronic Absence?



Conditions for learning and chronic absence, embedded within school and community factors, affect each other.







## The Push and Pull of Conditions for Learning

#### **Examples of Push-Out Factors**

#### Feeling:

Ignored

Unsafe

That you do not belong

### Experiencing:

Bullying

Boredom

Harsh and Exclusionary

Discipline

### **Examples of Pull Factors**

#### Feeling:

Cared for

Safe

That you belong

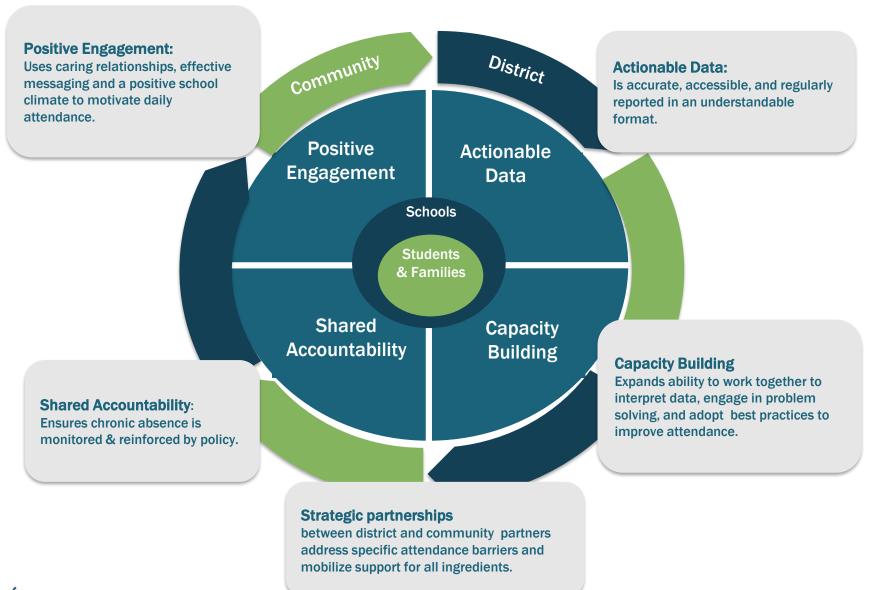
#### Experiencing

Engagement
Support for students
and their families

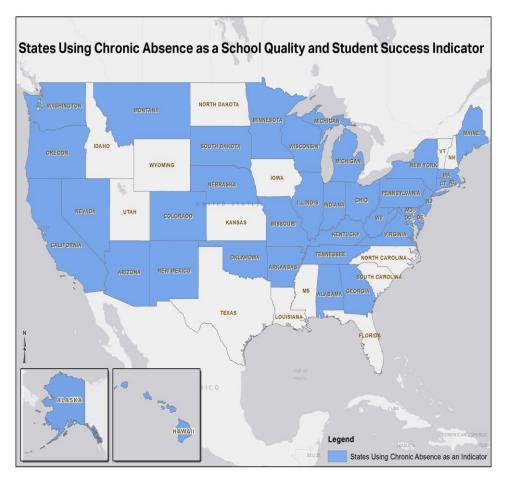


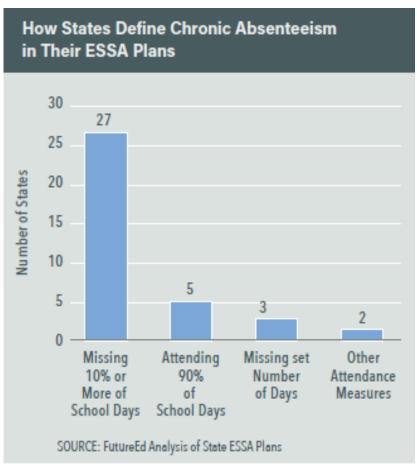


### What is the policy opportunity (and challenge)?



## Under ESSA, all states must report chronic absence. Most states included it as a metric in their implementation plans.





Who's In: Chronic Absenteeism Under the Every Student Succeeds Act Future Ed, Georgetown University, September 2017.



## The advantages of Chronic Absence Data

- ✓ Available nationally through the Office of Civil Rights and (soon) Ed Facts
- ✓ Now published annually by the majority of states
- ✓ Increasingly produced in real-time by school districts
- ✓ More frequently available than measures of emotional health or academic performance





# The challenge is advancing a new attendance paradigm

### From: Truancy

- Counts unexcused absences
- Emphasizes individual compliance with school rules
- Uses legal, typically more blaming and punitive, solutions



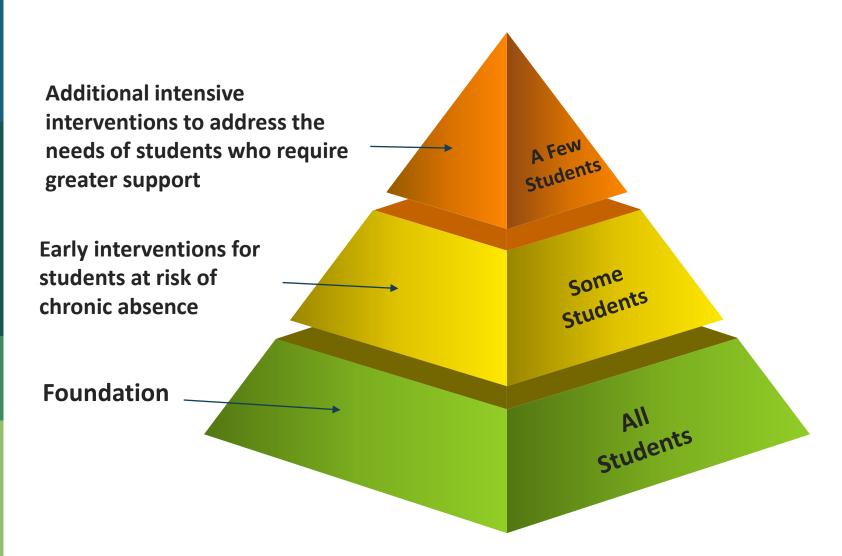
### To: Chronic Absence

- Counts all absences
- Emphasizes

   academic impact of missed days
- Uses preventive problem-solving, trauma-sensitive strategies
- Cultivates family & student engagement



## Nurture Conditions for Learning & Improve Attendance through Integrated Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports







# Questions from the Audience







### Georgia



Garry McGiboney
Deputy Superintendent,
Office of School Safety & Climate
Georgia Dept. of Education



Arianne Weldon
Director,
Get Georgia Reading Campaign
Georgia Family Connection Partnership



# **School Climate and Student Attendance**

There is a correlation between student attendance and the School Climate Star Rating (Wu 2017).



School Climate is the experience of school life and reflects norms, goals, values, social interactions, access, engagement, connections, teaching and learning practices, building quality, safety, and organizational practices.



### **GaPBIS Mission**

To improve climates in Georgia schools and community settings through the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework.

Increased the number of PBIS schools from 80 to 1,300 in seven years.

### Key Features of PBIS

Evidence-based framework developed to assist school teams in providing preventative, positive behavioral support for <u>ALL</u> students. This system of support includes:

- Clearly defined behavioral expectations
- ✓ Social & behavioral skills instruction
- ✓ Positive and proactive discipline
- ✓ Active supervision and monitoring
- ✓ Positive acknowledgement
- ✓ Data-based decision making
- Parent training and collaboration



Georgia includes school climate as an early indicator in its accountability system.

Georgia School Climate Star Rating

The *School Climate Star Rating* is a diagnostic tool to determine if a school is on the right path to school improvement, including attendance, behavior, and academic outcomes.





### **School Climate Star Rating Data Metrics**

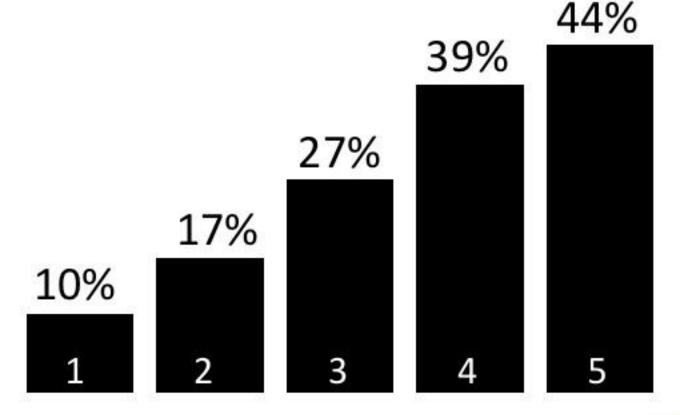
<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>
Student Survey	Student Discipline	School	Survey + Discipline
Parent Survey	Data (discipline data and enrollment	Attendance Data (students and teachers)	Data (Ratio of drugs, alcohol,
School Staff Survey	=weighted OSS rate)		bullying, & dangerous incidents)

**School Climate Star Rating (Scale 1-5: Negative to Positive)** 

\*Schools have access to each School Climate Star Rating metric, because the Rating is intended to be prescriptive **not** punitive. Improvement of school climate depends on effective change of each determinant – identifying patterns and clues.

### Percent of 3rd Grade Students ELA Proficient or Distinguished By School Climate Rating, 2018



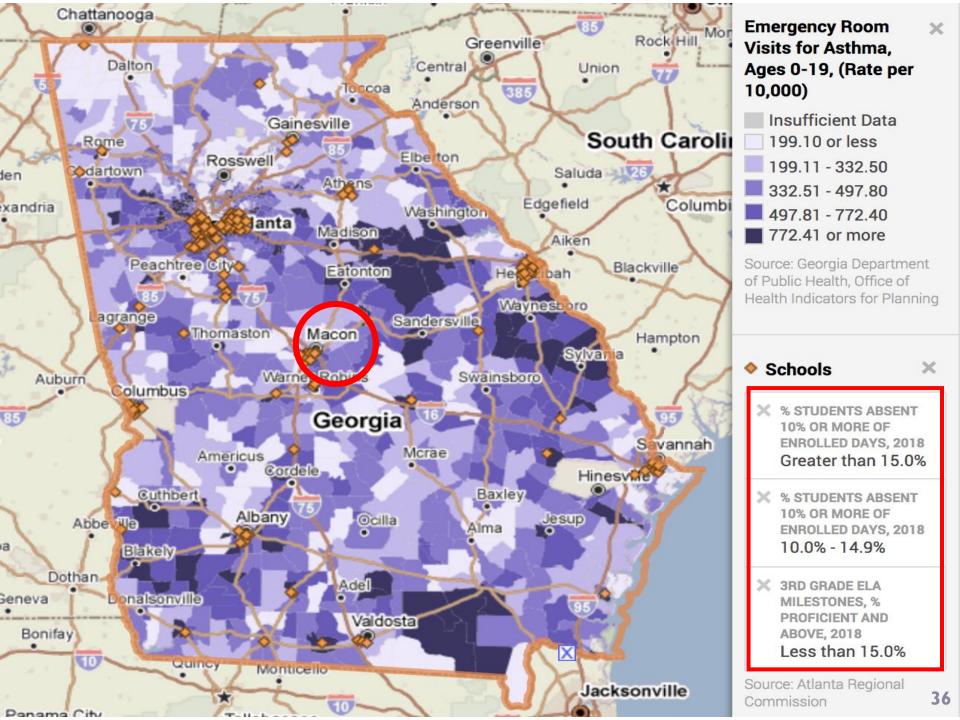


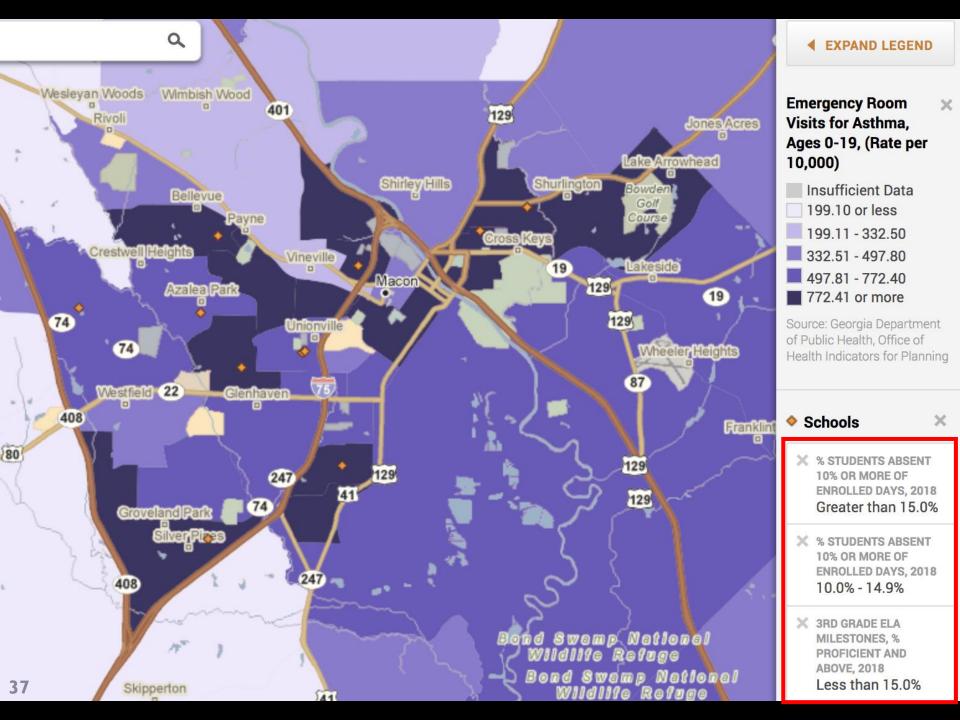
- The Georgia Department of Education, Georgia
   Department of Early Care and Learning, and MetroRegional Education Service Agency developed PBIS
   Classroom Early Learning Modules for Pre-K 3<sup>rd</sup>
   grade teachers.
- The modules are designed to help teachers structure positive learning environments by embedding developmentally appropriate classroom practices into Tier I systems of support.

- Based on the Pyramid Model framework
  designed for young children, these modules equip
  elementary school teachers with a toolkit of ageand developmentally-appropriate strategies.
- This is a new system for Georgia and the nation.

Schools and school districts that conducted close reviews of student absences found that health issues accounted for many absences and are increasing.

- Children with tooth decay are almost 3 times more likely than their peers to miss school, and over 52% of Georgia's third graders have tooth decay.
- ➤ 10% of Georgia's children suffer from asthma (75,000 students missed over 470,000 school days).
- Tooth decay and asthma are the most common chronic diseases in children, and the leading causes of health-related school absences.





- State legislators passed a law in 2018 that prohibits students in preschool —
   3<sup>rd</sup> grade from being suspended from school for more than five days without
   first receiving a multi-tiered system of supports—a framework for identifying
   and addressing students' academic and developmental needs.
  - For example: uncorrected vision problems may be manifest in misbehavior.
- The Georgia Department of Community Health is finalizing a policy change to leverage Medicaid reimbursement and significantly increase the number of school nurses.
- The Georgia Department of Community Affairs is incentivizing affordable
  housing developers to build properties that include supports addressing
  barriers to educational attainment, such as on-site early learning centers, onsite preventive health screenings, and health education.
- A state law passed in 2019 includes provisions for supporting tenants' concerns regarding health and safety issues such as mold and other environmental triggers for asthma.

## Questions from the Audience









# Lorri Hobson Director of Attendance Cleveland Metropolitan School District



### Cleveland Demographic

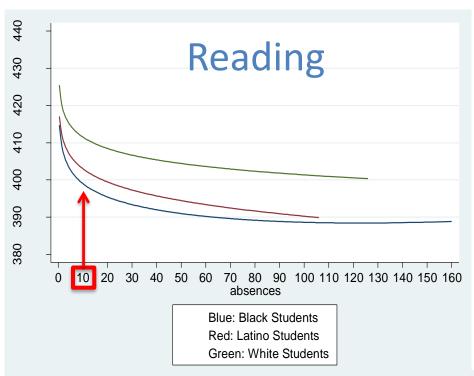
- Cleveland has 38,949 scholars.
  - ○68 K-8 schools
  - ○39 9-12 schools
- 100% on Free and Reduced Price Lunch.
- 64.5% African-American, 15.7% White, 15.8% Hispanic/Latino; 9% Limited English Proficient

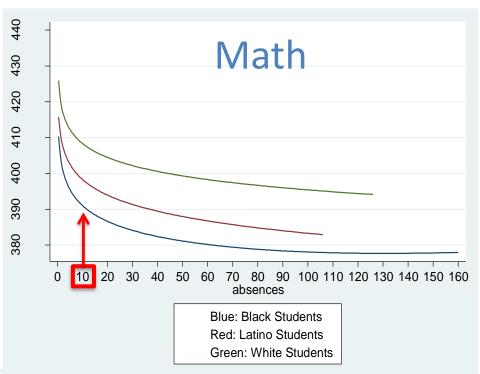


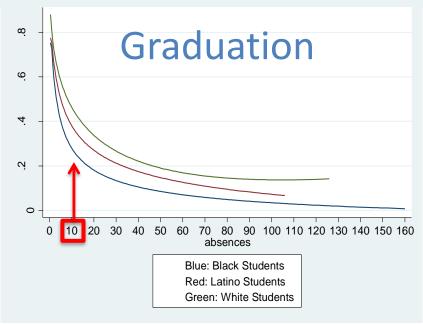
#### "Get 2 School. You Can Make It!"

- In the summer of 2015, with the CEO's commitment and leadership, Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) launched an attendance campaign to address one of the most significant barriers to student achievement, chronic absenteeism.
  - Ohio Department of Education = Chronic Absenteeism missing at least 10%
     (18 days) of the full academic year for any reason
  - CMSD = Chronic Absenteeism missing at least 10 days for the full academic year for any reason









#### Campaign Activities

- Established a campaign committee
- Outreach to stakeholders in labor, central office and departments who touch attendance: transportation, security, secretaries, principals to be a part of the campaign
- Outreach to partners in the community including the Cleveland Browns, McDonalds, Cleveland City Council and county leaders, Faith Based Community, local businesses, parent groups







#### Campaign Results

- Baseline: 2014-15
  - 47.4% of enrollment was On Track
- 2015-16
  - 55.6% On Track
- 2016-17
  - 56.3% On Track
- 2017-18
  - 59.0% On Track
- 2018-19
  - 58.6% On Track



Humanware is an initiative of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. It was based on the 2007-08 AIR audit that identified challenges and recommended three strategies to create safe schools with good conditions for learning.

It is a multi-tiered relational approach to school improvement that involves:

- Conditions for learning
- Social and emotional learning
- Early intervention
- Family engagement
- Coordinated intensive services

## Questions from the Audience





#### **School Action Framework**

#### **School Action Framework**







## The Hamilton Project



#### Lauren Bauer

Fellow – Economic Studies

The Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institution





#### Chronic Absence: School and Community Factors

#### Lauren Bauer

Fellow in Economic Studies, The Brookings Institution

lbauer@brookings.edu



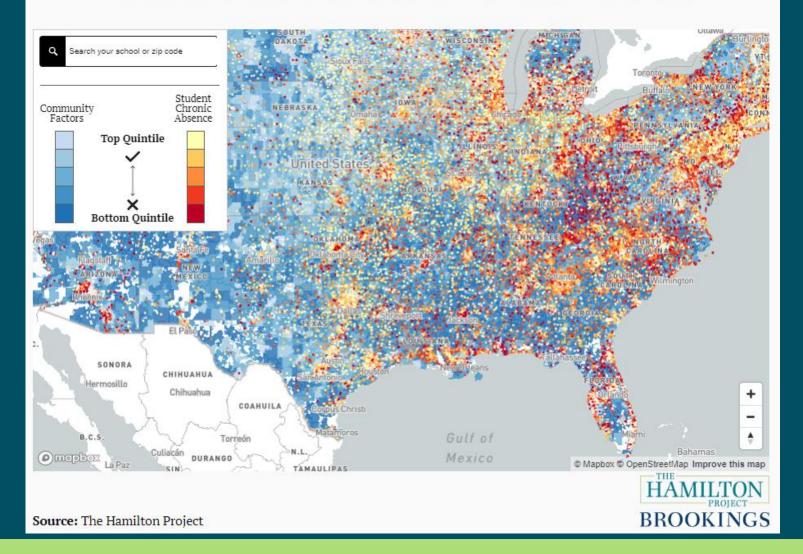
@laurenlbauer

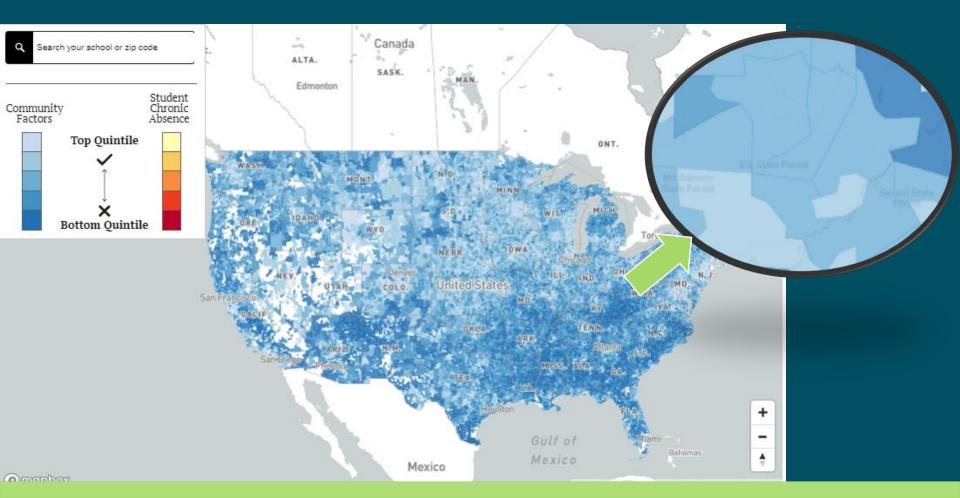
#### BROOKINGS

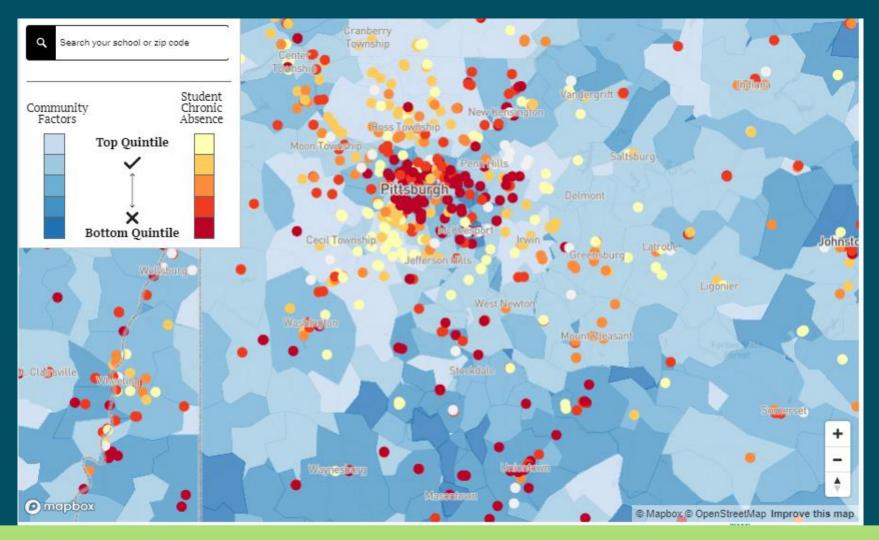
hamiltonproject.org

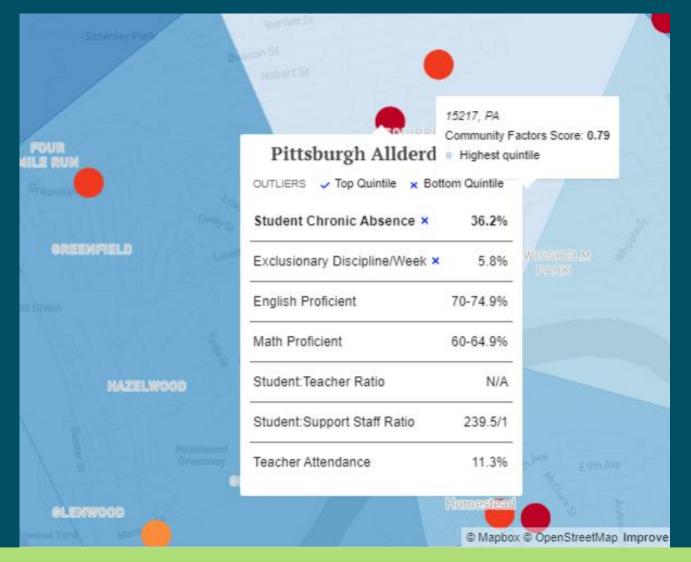
#### **Chronic Absence: School and Community Factors**

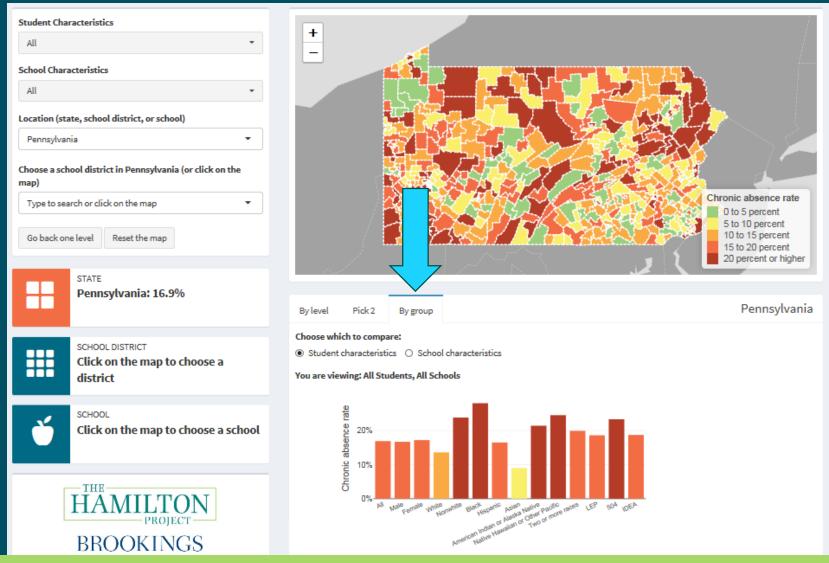
This Hamilton Project at Brookings interactive map shows rates of chronic absence along with relevant school and community factors for every school in the country. You can search by zip code or school name; click on schools to discover more information. By gradespan, schools with lower rates of chronic absence are shown in yellow and schools with the highest rates of chronic absence are shown in red.







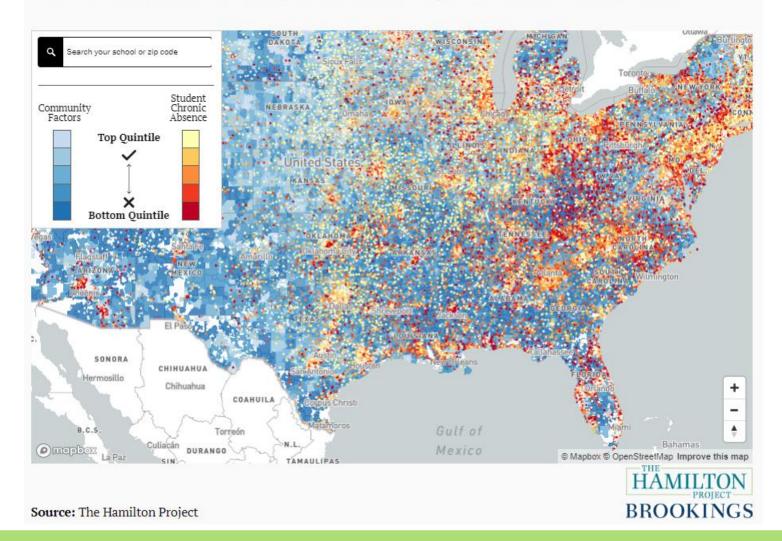




https://www.hamiltonproject.org/charts/chronic\_absence\_across\_the\_united\_states

#### **Chronic Absence: School and Community Factors**

This Hamilton Project at Brookings interactive map shows rates of chronic absence along with relevant school and community factors for every school in the country. You can search by zip code or school name; click on schools to discover more information. By gradespan, schools with lower rates of chronic absence are shown in yellow and schools with the highest rates of chronic absence are shown in red.





#### **Panel Discussion**



**David Osher**VP & Institute Fellow
American Institutes for
Research



Garry McGiboney
Deputy Superintendent
School Safety & Climate
Georgia Dept. of Education



Arianne Weldon
Director
Get Georgia Reading
Georgia Family Connection



Lorri Hobson
Director of Attendance
Cleveland Metropolitan
School District



**Lauren Bauer**Fellow, Economic Studies
The Hamilton Project at the
Brookings Institution



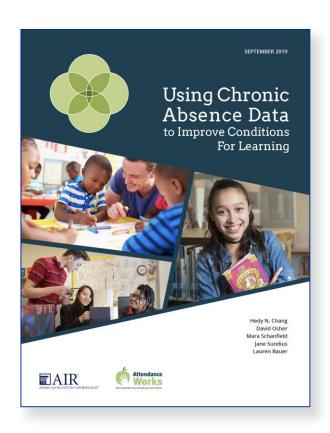
### Announcements



Cecelia Leong
Director for Programs
Attendance Works



#### New resources available today!

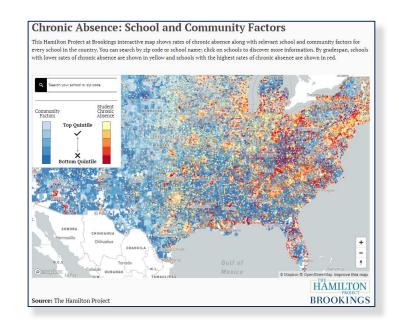


Interactive Data Map
from the Hamilton Project at the
Brookings Institution

http://brookings.edu/chronicabsence

## September Research Brief Using Chronic Absence Data to Improve Conditions for Learning

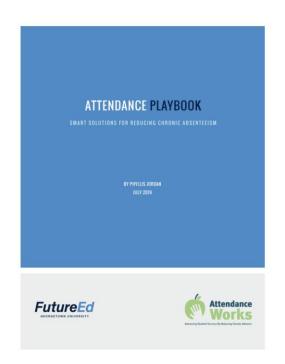
https://www.attendanceworks.org/
using-chronic-absence-data-toimprove-conditions-for-learning/





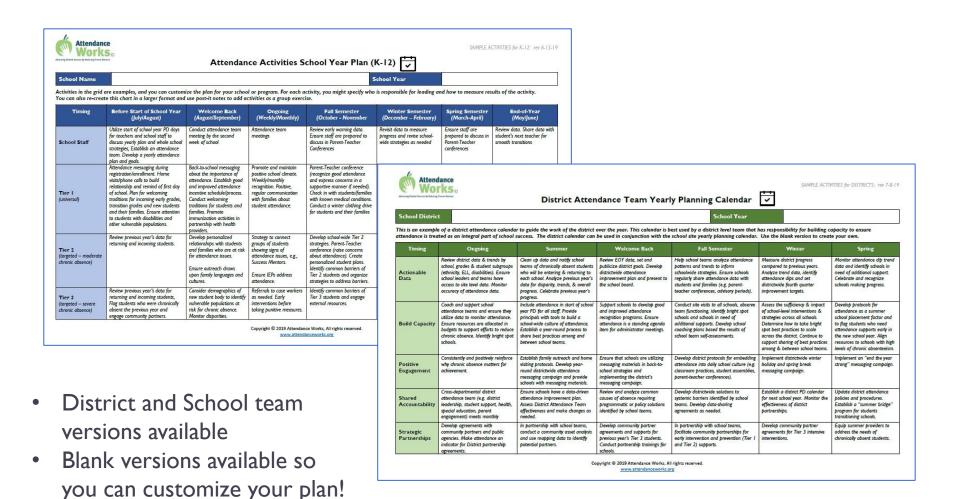
## Attendance Playbook: A New Resource from FutureEd & Attendance Works

- Offers nearly 2 dozen interventions for reducing chronic absenteeism
- Provides ESSA research level, tier of support, rationale and resources for each approach



https://www.future-ed.org/attendance-playbook/

#### **Yearly Planning Calendars**



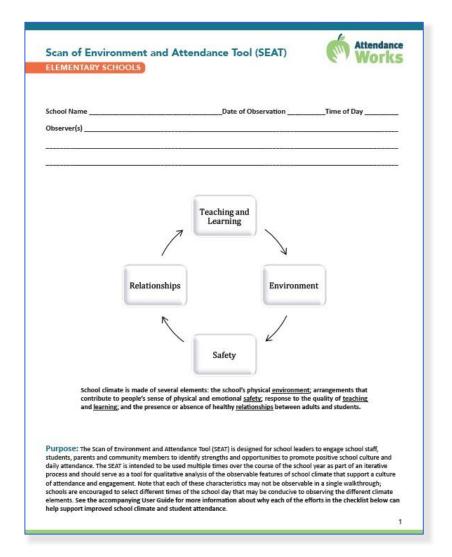
https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/year-long-planning/





## Scan of Environment and Attendance Tool (SEAT)

Designed for school leaders to engage staff, students, parents and community members to identify strengths and opportunities to promote positive school culture and strong attendance.



https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/scan-environment-attendance/



### **#PROMISECHAT**

How Safe and Supportive
Learning Environments Can
Improve Attendance
#SchoolEveryDay

September 12 at 3pm ET/12pm PT

Join @AmericasPromise, @AttendanceWorks, & @FutureEdGU









## **Back to School**Twitter Chat

MENTOR, Attendance Works, and SchoolHouse Connection are teaming up to chat about how caring adult relationships can help youth thrive and stay in school.

September 19 | 2PM EDT

**#MentorIRL** #SchoolEveryDay





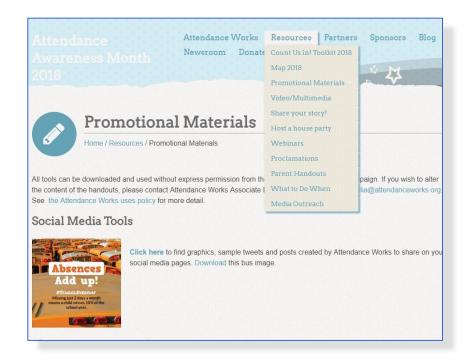




## Key Resource: Attendance Awareness Website

### PROMOTE LOCALLY

- ✓ Download our free materials and our online Count Us In! toolkit and share with local districts.
- ✓ Encourage schools and community partners to join our listserv: 18,000+ members.



Sign up for Updates: <a href="https://www.awareness.attendanceworks.org">www.awareness.attendanceworks.org</a>





### Superintendents Call to Action

Own the issue Mobilize the Community Drive with Data

To sign-up for the Call to Action, or to learn more, please visit: www.attendanceworks.org/superintendents-call-to-action







### Superintendents Call to Action

#### Call to Action Timeline

- Invite your Superintendent to join using our template letter
- Press release sharing the names of all the Superintendents who joined will be sent out on October 16
- Deadline for inclusion in press release: Monday, October 7

### Find the template letter and more resources for Superintendents here:

https://www.attendanceworks.org/take-action/educators/superintendents-call-to-action/







### Opportunities to Promote AAC 2019!

#### Share the Attendance Awareness website:

http://awareness.attendanceworks.org/

✓ Like us on Facebook





- √ Tweet using #schooleveryday @attendanceworks
- ✓ Add a badge to your signature line or materials (Spanish versions are available, too!)

  <a href="https://awareness.attendanceworks.org/resources/promotional-materials/2019-badges/">https://awareness.attendanceworks.org/resources/promotional-materials/2019-badges/</a>



✓ Write a blog post on your website promoting regular attendance and the Attendance Awareness Campaign!



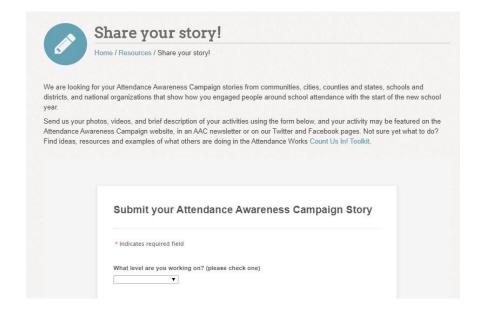


#### **Share Your Story!**



## What are you doing for Attendance Awareness?

We would love to know what you're doing! Fill in your details, send a photo, and look for your story in Community News 2019.



https://awareness.attendanceworks.org/resources/share-your-story/





#### 2019 Webinar Series

- ★ March 21: Lay a Foundation for Success: Engage Families to Address Early Chronic Absence
- May 16: Nurture Dreams: Ensure Students Feel Safe, Supported, Connected and Engaged
- ★ August 8: Open Doors: Create a Healthy School Climate
- ★ September 10: A Place Where We Belong: Improving Conditions for Learning

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



#### And special appreciation to our philanthropic partners:

## The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading The California Endowment The Jonathan Logan Family Foundation





#### **Support AAC 2019**



http://www.attendanceworks.org/donate/





#### **Webinar Recording**

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

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





#### Please let us know how we can improve:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/conditions-for-learning



