

Session 3:

Partnering to Make a Difference



Professional Learning Series

August 15, 2023

Welcome!



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Three E-Learning Sessions

During these sessions, participants will learn how to work as a team to take a multi-tiered approach to improve attendance in their schools:

- ❖ Session I Whole School Engagement Strategies for Reducing Student Absenteeism
- Session 2 Early Intervention Strategies: Using Teams to Monitor and Identify Students in Need of Support
- ❖ Session 3 Partnering to Make a Difference



Welcome!

If you wish to review Session 2, please take a look at the slides, list of materials and the recording.

- Recording: Session #2
- Presentation slides
- Outline & Summary of Resources





Use the Chat and share:

- √ Your name, role, community, and state
- ✓ A key community partner for engaging students in school





What has been most valuable to you from the first 2 classes? (check all that apply)

- ☐ The key functions of an attendance team
- Taking a multi-tiered approach to reducing absenteeism beginning with prevention
- ☐ Effective communication strategies
- Using chronic absence data to inform action
- ☐ Identifying root causes of absenteeism
- ☐ Other *(type in chat)*





Pop Quiz

- I. Early intervention begins when students miss 20% of school. (True or False)
- There are many factors affecting student attendance.
 (True or False)
- Schools must form a stand-alone attendance team.
 (True or False)
- 4. You matter! (True or False)





Participants will:

- Learn strategies for mobilizing school staff and community agencies to partner with families to improve attendance and engagement.
- Find out about how to determine if your efforts are making a difference.





Attendance Functions of a School Team



Session 2

- I. Organize a multi-tiered attendance strategy that begins with prevention and early intervention.
- 2. Examine attendance and absenteeism data to assess which groups of students have higher or lower levels of absence.
- 3. Identify assets, barriers and strategies that affect attendance.

Session 3

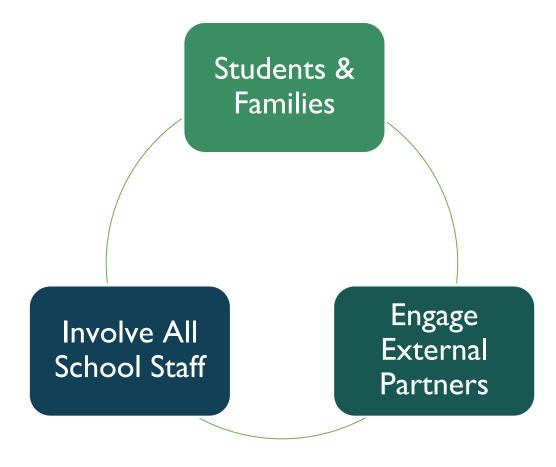
- 4. Mobilize everyone in the school community to address attendance.
- 5. Determine if you are making a difference.



Team Function #4: Mobilize everyone in the school community to address attendance



Mobilize the School Community to Address Attendance

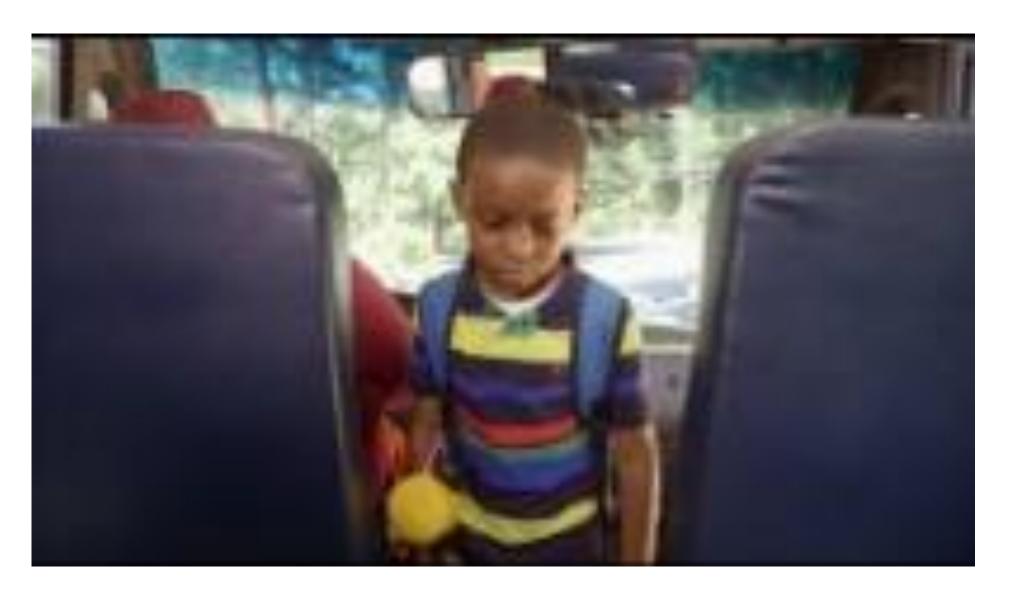




Changing the Power Dynamics: Shifting to a Partnership Approach

Problem Focused	to	Partnership Focused
Approach family only to address a problem		Initial outreach focuses on building a relationship
One-way messaging to families		Start with listening to families; Find out hopes, dreams, assets, and needs
Focus <i>only</i> on barriers		Leverage student/family strengths to overcome challenges
Presume you have all the answers and know what is best for the family/student		Collaborate with families and encourage practices that build upon their assets and priorities

We All Have a Role







Share your thoughts in Chat:

- I. What's the connection between this video and attendance?
- 2. How are you encouraging everyone at your school to get involved in attendance and engagement?

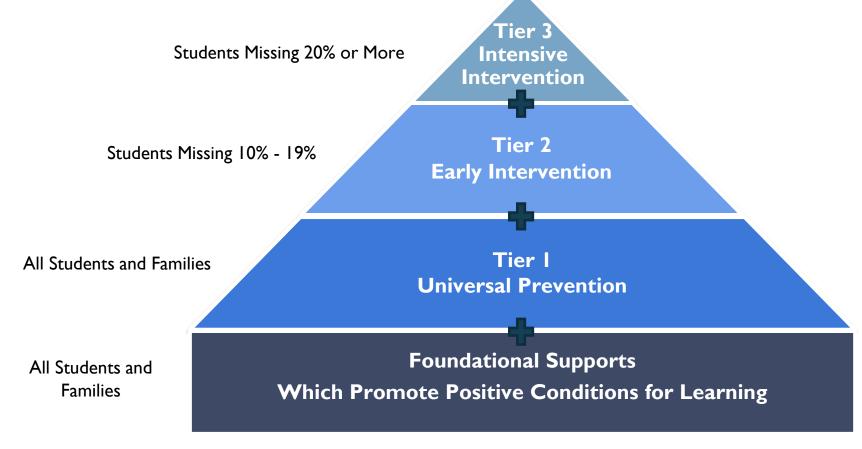


Mobilize the Community: Involve All School Staff in Caring Conversations





Multi-tiered System of Support for Attendance





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

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Know Your Students' Attendance Status

DAYS MISSED IN SCHOOL YEAR							
Satisfactory Attendance	Missed less than 5% (fewer than 9 days in a 180-day school year)						
At-risk Attendance	Missed 5-9.99% (9-17 days in a 180-day school year)						
Moderate Chronic Absence	Missed 10-19.99% (18-35 days in a 180-day school year)						
Severe Chronic Absence	Missed 20-49.99% (36-89 days in a 180-day school year)						
Extreme Chronic Absence	Missed 50% or more (90 or more days in a 180-day school year)						



Tailor Conversations to Students' Attendance Status

Satisfactory Attendance

At-Risk

Chronic Absence

Congratulate them on their student's good attendance.

Ask them what they're doing that's enabling them to be so successful!

Check in to see how things are going.

Find out what might help to motivate students to show up even more regularly.

If student is missing 10% or more

Let them know you care and want to help.

Explore what motivates showing up and discuss underlying causes

Connect to resources

If student is severely or extremely chronically absent (e.g. >20%)

Allocate enough time for a caring conversation.

Consider involving support staff in the family meeting.

Be supportive and ready to connect to resources.





Whole Group Reflection

We've all had the experience of conversations going poorly when trying to broach a sensitive subject. Take a moment and reflect about an instance when this happened (Each person shares for 1 minute)

- Why the conversation went badly
- What could have helped

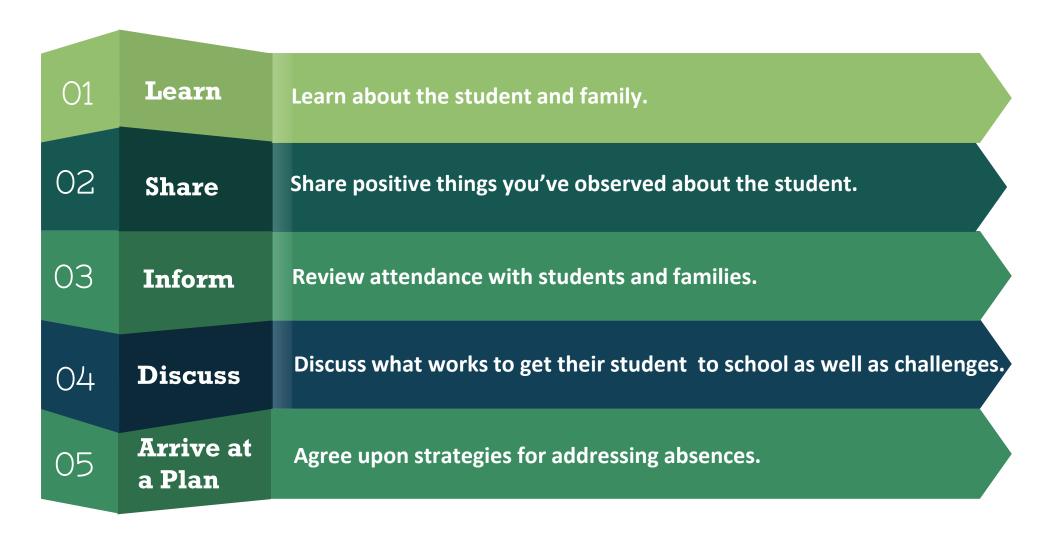


Sample Scenario: Modeling Caring Conversations

- You are Alyssa's teacher. You have noticed that Alyssa seems more reserved and less attentive than normal in class. She has missed 8 days of school in the two and a half months of school and is frequently tardy. Alyssa sometimes says she does not feel well but you aren't sure she is seriously ill. You have not been able to contact Alyssa's parent since the beginning of the school year despite multiple attempts.
- You are Alyssa's parent. Alyssa has asthma and you're scared that it's been getting worse. Sometimes her wheezing keeps her up at night so it's hard to get her to school on time. You are still worried that Covid could be a problem. She's started to ask if she can stay home sometimes because she feels lost in class and doesn't want to look dumb in front of the other kids. You have not found that teachers at Alyssa's school know what it's like for you to try to manage Alyssa's asthma and make sure that she's alright.



The "Caring Conversations for Attendance" Process



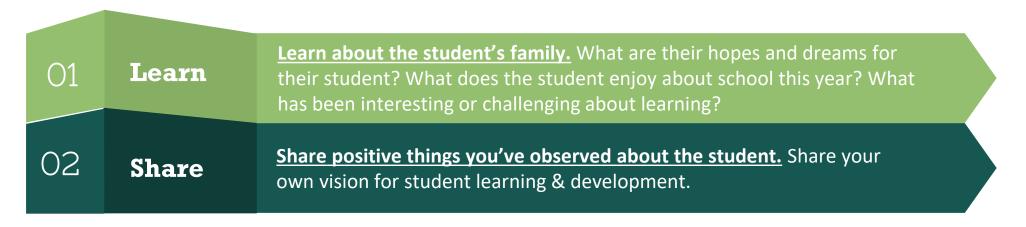




Steps 1 & 2: Learn and Share

Share in Chat:

- What excellent questions can you ask to learn about a student's family?
- I. What are some positive observations about a student you might share with the student or family?







Step 3: Inform

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Inform

Review attendance with parents. Tailor conversation to student's level of absenteeism & inform them of possible impacts of missing school. How might poor attendance affect their hopes and dreams for their student?

- I. Show absences marked on a school calendar
- 2. Identify patterns
- 3. Share what key concepts a student missed relating back to the hopes and dreams that the student or parents shared

2021-2022 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

September 2021					October 2021							November 2021								
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June 2022						July 2022							August 2022							
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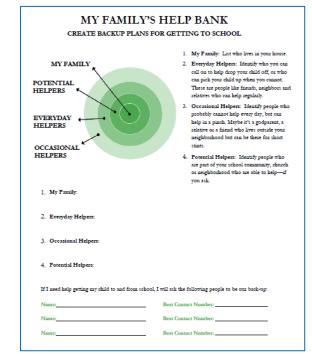
Step 4: Discuss

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Discuss

<u>Discuss what works to get their student to school as well as challenges.</u> Explore options for making up for lost learning time in the classroom.

- I. Learn about student motivations.
- 2. Discuss reasons for absenteeism.
- 3. Explore what would help reduce absences and increase engagement.
- 4. Identify opportunities to make up for lost learning in the classroom.
- 5. Use help bank to identify support systems.





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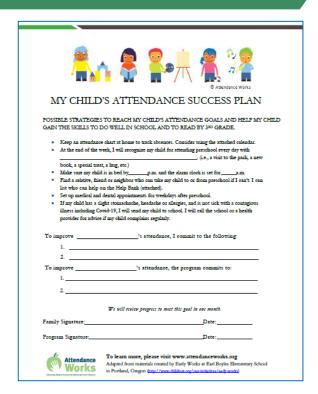
Step 5: Arrive at a Plan

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Arrive at a Plan

Assess strategies for addressing absences. Help students and families develop an attendance and learning plan. Offer referrals to services as needed and ask if there are other ways you can help.

- I. Work with the family to identify specific steps that will help to prevent absenteeism in the future.
- 2. Develop and complete a plan for attendance and learning
- 3. Ensure that the plan includes any support that the school will offer as well
- 4. Provide a copy of the plan to the student/parent
- 5. Agree on a timeline to check in and see how things are progressing



Caring Conversations Professional Development Resources

	Key Points	Questions and Messages
I. Learn	Gather information Ask open-ended, supportive questions	What is your vision for <u>student's</u> future? (ask parent and student)
2. Share	 Positive observations about student so far What you want students to accomplish this year One goal is helping students acquire good habit of attendance 	is such a good listener. We love having her (you) in our class.
3. Inform	 Progress you've seen (start positive) Areas where child is struggling Review report card & update parents on child's attendance Deliver appropriate attendance messages 	is excelling at math! and is making progress with reading. Reading remains the area that needs work. has been late five times and has missed two days during this first month of school. Absences impede reading and overall learning progress.
4. Discuss	 Challenges, attendance barriers Learning at home activities How to stay connected 	What makes it hard for to get to school? What helps catch up on learning given their absences?
5. Ask & Arrive at a Plan	 Are there any questions? Is there anything you can do to support a partnership between home and school? Make referrals to community resources 	What questions do you have? How can I help you? Would it help you to work with?

https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Caring-Conversation-Worksheet-2-16-22.docx



Small Group Discussion

At your school:

- Who in your school community could benefit from learning about Caring Conversations?
- How and when can you introduce them to Caring Conversations?



Ground Rules

- Turn on your video camera
- Briefly introduce yourself
- Raise your hand to speak
- Ask clarifying questions
- Explore differences of opinion
- Create space for everyone to speak (and use the chat to express ideas)
- The person whose first name is closest to the letter "Z" should facilitate.



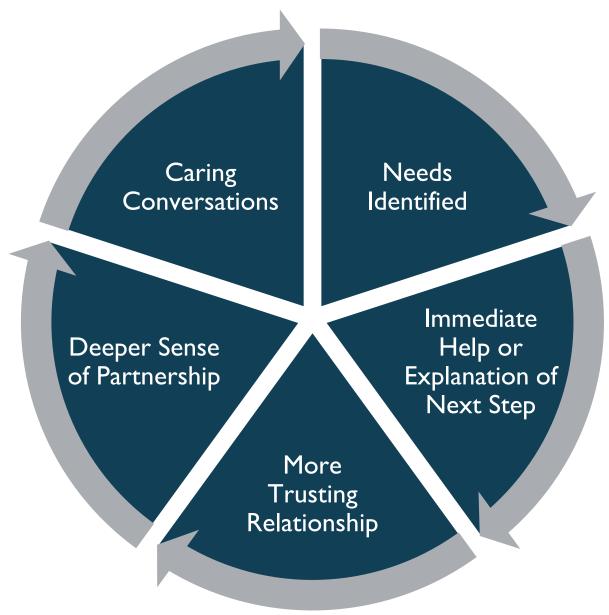
Report Out

How and when can you equip others in your school community to have Caring Conversations?



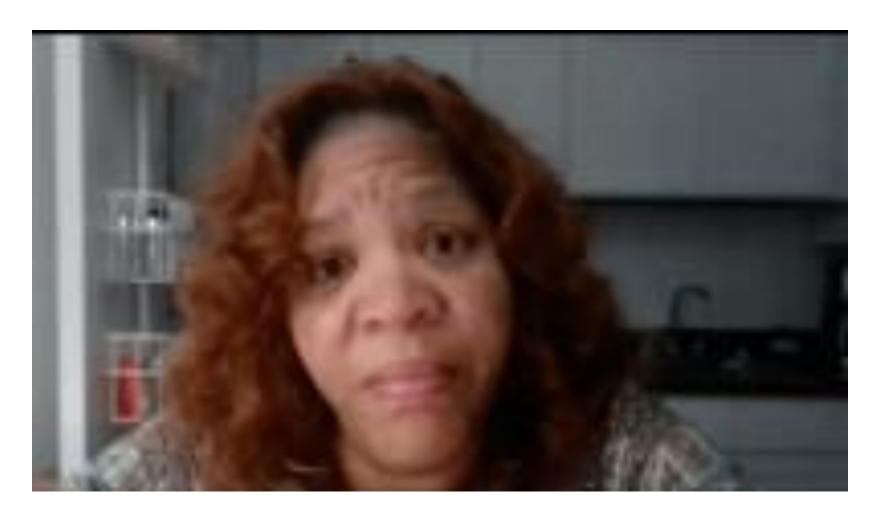
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The Cycle of Effective Relationship Building





Listening to Parents

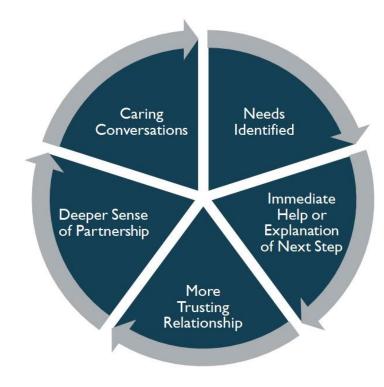


Lorri Hobson, Former Director of Attendance Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) in Cleveland, Ohio

Attendance Works ©

https://youtu.be/f93RjyYvHb0





Type in chat:

- What might cause the cycle to break down?
- What can school teams do to keep it going?



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Mobilize the Community: Engage Partners





Community partners and public agencies are partners in providing support to students and families in my school.

- ☐ Strongly in Place
- ☐ Measurable Progress
- ☐ Needs Improvement
- ☐ Urgent Gap



School Team Self-Assessment tool: https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/self-assessment/

Community Schools Strategy



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oc64K3obVqE

To learn more about community schools, contact the <u>Coalition of Community Schools</u>
Or find a local <u>Communities In Schools affiliate</u>



Partners for Change

The greater the size of the challenge, the more partners are needed. Many different types of partners can be enlisted, but local government and public agencies are especially important. Tap into existing initiatives and coalitions to engage potential partners.

- · Businesses
- · Community Schools Initiatives
- · Family Support Organizations
- · Early Childhood Providers
- · Faith-Based Organizations
- · Health / Mental Health Providers
- Housing Agencies
- · Hunger Relief Organizations
- · Institutes of Higher Education
- · Local / Tribal Governments

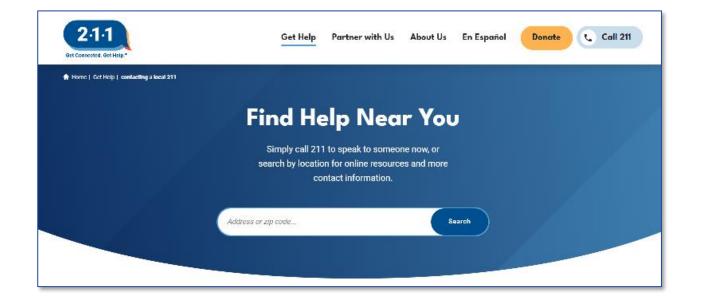
- National Service / Volunteers / Mentors
- Out –of-School Time providers
- · Social Emotional Learning Providers
- Social Services
- Population-Specific Service or Civic Organizations
- Philanthropy (including foundations and United Ways)





Ways to Identify External Partners and Resources

- ✓ United Way 211
- ✓ Online Search –e.g. <u>Findhelp.org</u>
- ✓ Any other examples? (type in chat)





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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
Promotoras (community health workers)

NAMI – online courses

Disengaged

- Assign a peer group mentor
- Create an individualized learning plan
- Explore afterschool options (art, music, STEM, etc.)
- Offer alternatives for credit recovery

MENTOR

Parks & Rec program
Boys & Girls Club

Family/Work Responsibilities

- Identify alternate caregivers for elderly or for children
- Provide a modified schedule
- Negotiate work schedules with local employers

Adult Day Care
Child Care Referral
Networks

Transportation Barriers

- Walking School Bus
- Free municipal bus passes
- Carpools

Parents
AmeriCorps program
City government



School Community and External Partners

- Use this worksheet to help keep track of your partners
- ❖ Be sure to update the list on a regular basis

https://www.attendanceworks.org/wpcontent/uploads/2019/06/List-of-Partners-2.16-22.docx

			Partner	s		Attendance Works
chool			District			
rimary School / I	District Contact					
Name		т	itle/Position:			
Email:	Phone					
Name of Partner	Contact Info. (name, email, phone)	What is being provided?	Who is being served?	Time Period of Partnership	Who established this partnership?	Last updated on (mm/dd/yy)*
EXAMPLE: Springfield County Food Bank	name, email, phone#	food	all students	5Y 2021-2022	name, email, phone#	8/1/21



Team Function #5:
Determine if you are making a difference





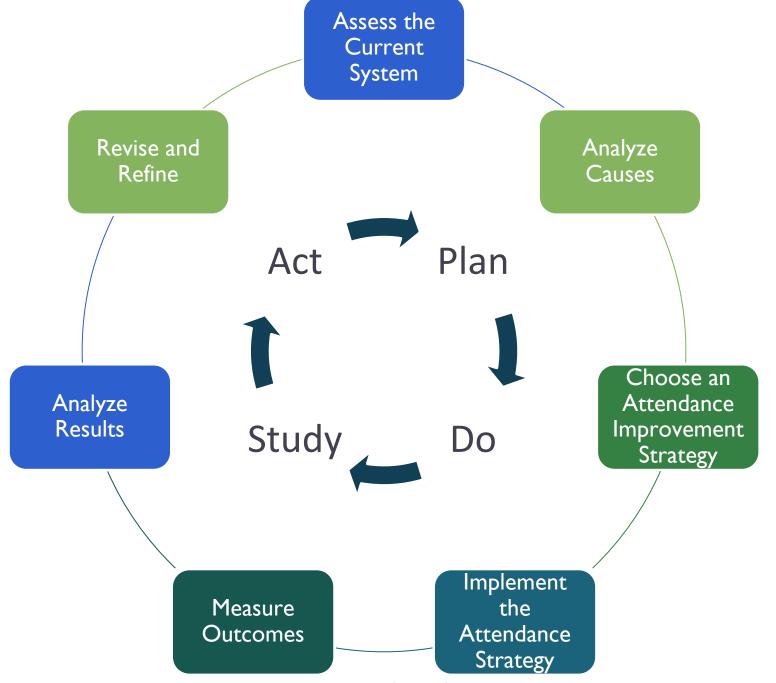
Measuring Progress

Answer these four key questions:

- I. How much did we do? (quantity)
- 2. How well did we do it? (quality)
- 3. What difference did we make for the students who received support?
- 4. What was the impact on the school as a whole?



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Questions from the Audience







Participants will:

- Learn strategies for mobilizing school staff and community agencies to partner with families to improve attendance and engagement.
- Find out about how to determine if your efforts are making a difference





Evaluation Survey

Please let us know how we can improve:

https://app.upmetrics.com/data_collector/ckf2oltbqlt8k0759tfdbfybj

Thank you!





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About Us

Attendance Works advances student success and closes equity gaps 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



Appendix: Additional Resources



Interventions that can be found in the Attendance Playbook







TIER I Interventions

- Nudging Parents and Students
- Home Visits
- Positive Messaging
- Incentives
- Healthy School Buildings
- School-based Health Services
- Telehealth
- School Buses and Public Transit
- A Safer Walk to School
- Breakfast for All
- Laundry at School
- Relevant—and Culturally Relevant—Curriculum
- Threshold Greetings
- Rethinking Recess
- Restorative Discipline Practices

TIER II Interventions

- Early Warning Systems
- Mentors
- Youth Engagement
- Addressing Asthma
- Targeted Transportation
- Students with Disabilities
- School Refusal
- Immigration Enforcement

TIER III Interventions

- Truancy Courts
- Interagency Case Management
- Housing Challenges

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

Implementation Guide: https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/attendance-playbook/





The Guide to the Attendance Playbook offers practical tips for:

- > Forming a team
- > Using attendance data to determine the number of strategies
- Analyzing why students are absent and selecting strategies that address those reasons
- > Realistically assessing your team's capacity to implement each strategy
- > Selecting strategies that are likely to have the greatest impact for the lowest effort
- Making an implementation plan
- Assessing how well the strategies worked



PDSA Example: Lunch Buddies

Goal: Improve attendance for disconnected students

$Plan \rightarrow Do \rightarrow Study \rightarrow Act (PDSA) Plan$

Testers: Counselors Test Title: Lunch Buddies Cycl	
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What change idea is being tested?

Lunch Buddies is the change idea. Counselors will invite students who seem disconnected to eat lunch and meet with peers in small groups every Friday.

What is the overall goal of this test?

Improve attendance for students who seem to be disconnected and who have missed between 10-19% of the school year. Students who feel more connected to their peers will have better attendance. Selected students will have fewer total absences on the day of the test than on the previous Friday as a result of feeling more connected to peers.

Driver:

Positive Peer Relationships

Date of test: October 23, 2023

a new form every week to record results.)

(After the first attempt, review the data, discuss, and make

modifications to increase outcomes for the next week. Use

Learning Questions: What do you hope to learn from this test?

- Q1 Are counselors willing to support this intervention?
- Q2 Which students will show up?
- Q3 Does attendance improve on Fridays?
- Q4 Are there any spillover effects, i.e., does attendance improve the other days of the week?



PDSA Example: Lunch Buddies

Goal: Improve attendance for disconnected students

$Plan \rightarrow Do \rightarrow Study \rightarrow Act (PDSA) Plan$

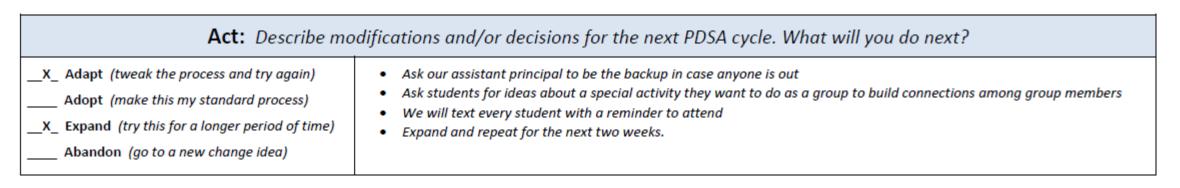
Plan			Do	Study
Details: What are the steps in the test? Who will implement it?	Predictions: Make a prediction for each question. Not optional.	Data you will collect	Briefly describe: what happened during the test, surprises, difficulty getting data, obstacles, successes, etc.	What were the results? Comment on your predictions in the rows below. Were they correct? Record any data summaries as well.
Recruit counselors Select location where	Q1 - Prediction - All counselors are willing to help	Attendance of counselors	We had four counselors and 24 students. The students were split into groups of six. There was a miscommunication and the special outreach to chronically absent students did not happen.	All but one of the counselors showed up. She was out sick.
groups can sit in a circle 3. Agree on conversation starters 4. Invite all students	Q2 - Prediction - Students who have satisfactory attendance and at-risk attendance will show up. Some students who are chronically absent will show up.	List of students who participate each Friday sorted into attendance categories.		Of the students who were invited, half showed up. Only about a quarter of the chronically absent students made it
 5. Special outreach to students who are chronically absent 6. Note which students attended after each session 	Q3 - Does attendance improve on Fridays?	Compare the total number of absences for targeted students on this Friday with the total number of absences for targeted students on previous Friday.		Yes, several of the chronically absent students who attended the lunch had been absent the previous Friday.
	Q4 - Are there any spillover effects?	Compare the total number of absences on the following Monday with previous Mondays.		The Monday absences were the same as the previous week.



PDSA Example: Lunch Buddies

Goal: Improve attendance for disconnected students

$Plan \rightarrow Do \rightarrow Study \rightarrow Act (PDSA) Plan$



- Download the example: https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/PDSA-Plan-Do-Study-Act-worksheet-EXAMPLE-rev-August-2023.pdf
- Download the blank worksheet: https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/PDSA-Plan-Do-Study-Act-worksheet-BLANK-rev-August-2023.pdf



PDSA Example: 2x10 Relationship Strategy Bank

Goal: Improve attendance for disconnected students

$Plan \rightarrow Do \rightarrow Study \rightarrow Act (PDSA) Plan$

Testers: Attendance Team	Test Title: 2x10 Strategy	Cycle #: 1
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What change idea is being tested?

2x10 Strategy is the change idea. Attendance Team members will each identify one student who might benefit from additional support. Attendance Team members will each meet with one student for two minutes for ten consecutive days, allowing the student to talk about anything they would like.

Date of test: October 2-13, 2023

After the ten days, reflect on the following: How did this help you learn about the student in new ways? What did you notice about your relationship with the student across the ten days? What are the implications of your learning for school practice going forward?

What is the overall goal of this test?

Improve attendance for students who seem to be disconnected and who have missed between 10-19% of the school year. Provide adults with insight into student realities. Students who feel seen, heard, and cared for will have better attendance. Selected students will have fewer total absences going forward as a result of feeling more cared for.

Driver:

Insight into student realities that might strengthen positive adult-peer relationships

Learning Questions: What do you hope to learn from this test?

- Q1 Are adults willing and able to support this intervention?
- Q2 How many of the identified students will participate in the check-in for ten consecutive days?
- Q3 Does attendance for students who participate improve going forward?
- Q4 What are the implications for wider implementation of the 2x10 strategy?
- Q5 Are there any spillover effects, e.g., do some students participate more in class? Does behavior improve?



PDSA Example: 2x10 Relationship Strategy Bank

Goal: Improve attendance for disconnected students

$Plan \rightarrow Do \rightarrow Study \rightarrow Act (PDSA) Plan$

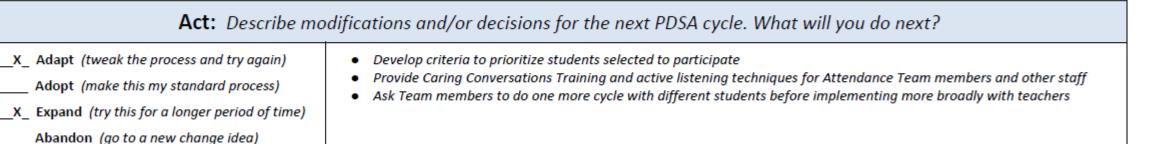
	Plan		Do	Study
Details: What are the steps in the test? Who will implement it?	Predictions: Make a prediction for each question. Not optional.	Data you will collect	Briefly describe: what happened during the test, surprises, difficulty getting data, obstacles, successes, etc.	What were the results? Comment on your predictions in the rows below. Were they correct? Record any data summaries as well.
1. Review the 2x10 process with team members to get buy-in to ensure fidelity and provide conversation starters 2. Use data to identify students for outreach	Q1 - Prediction - All Attendance Team members (8) are willing to participate Q2 - Prediction - 5 students will check in for ten consecutive days	2x10 checklist from each Team member	Prioritizing which of the chronically absent students to contact proved to be a challenge. Once the students were selected, Team members each contacted one student to meet with. Initially, the students thought they	Q1. All Team members were able to participate each of the ten days. Q2. Six students checked in all ten days.
3. Team members invite one student to check in at a specific time/location 4. At the end of each	Q3 - Prediction - Students who participate in all 10 days improve attendance going forward.	Student attendance prior to 2x10, during 2x10, in the two weeks following the 2x10, and one month following the 2X10	were in trouble, particularly when the principal contacted her student. Of the 8 students, 6 actually showed up all ten consecutive days.	Q3. One student had two excused absences for illness. A second student had one excused absence, also for illness. Six students had no unexcused absences for the 2 weeks following the 2x10.
check-in, make specific plans for meeting the following day. 5. Note on the 2x10 grid	Q4 – Implications for wider implementation?	Meet with Attendance Team members and students for reflection		Q4. Attendance Team members decide to implement the 2x10 with one additional student and check in at least once per week with their student from group one.
when the check-in is complete	Q5 - Are there any spillover effects?			Q5. There were reductions in referrals for behavior for the 6 students who participated.



PDSA Example: 2x10 Relationship Strategy Bank

Goal: Improve attendance for disconnected students

$Plan \rightarrow Do \rightarrow Study \rightarrow Act (PDSA) Plan$



- Download the example: https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/PDSA-Plan-Do-Study-Act-worksheet-EXAMPLE-2x10-rev-Aug-2023.pdf
- Download the blank worksheet: https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/PDSA-Plan-Do-Study-Act-worksheet-BLANK-rev-August-2023.pdf

