

### **Session 3:**

### Partnering to Make a Difference



Professional Learning Series

February 15, 2024





Cecelia Leong
Vice President of Programs



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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
- ✓ What is one outstanding question you still have about chronic absence?





#### Poll: Sessions 1 & 2

### 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

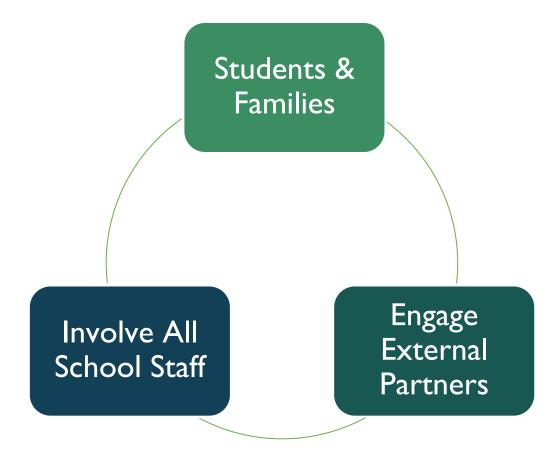
- 4. Mobilize everyone in the school community to address attendance.
- 5. Determine if you are making a difference.



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



### Mobilize the School Community to Address Attendance





### Shifting from Individual to a Team Approach

### **Individual Responsibility**

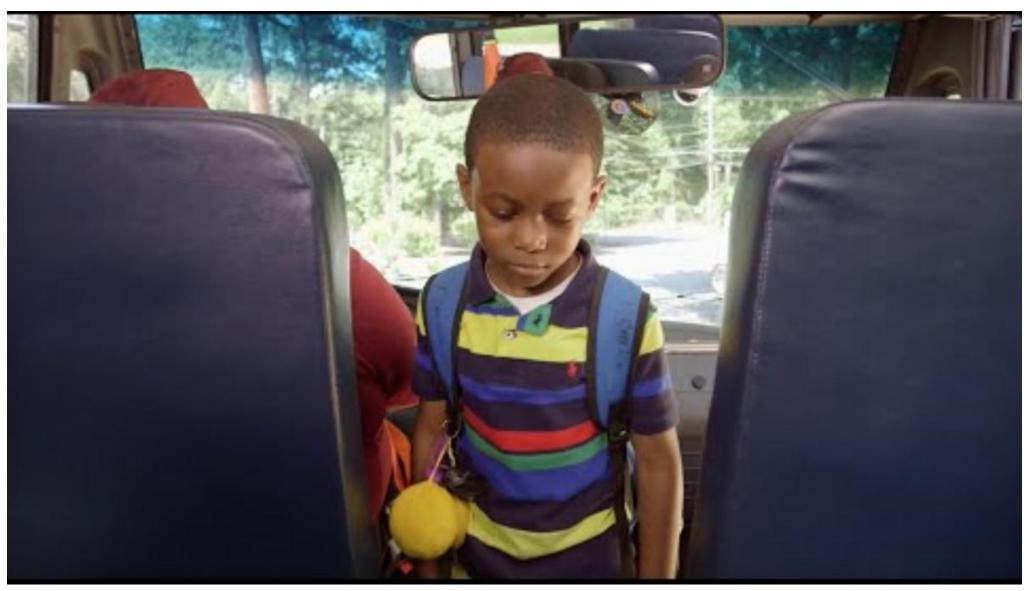
- One person or department handles attendance
- Each staff member operates in isolation
- Site administrators are expected to produce results on their own
- Schools alone are accountable for improving attendance

### **Shared Responsibility**

- Many people play different roles to improve attendance
- School team coordinates efforts to improve student attendance and engagement
- Site administrators receive district resources, policies and guidance to support effective practice
- Collective impact with partner agencies



### 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?

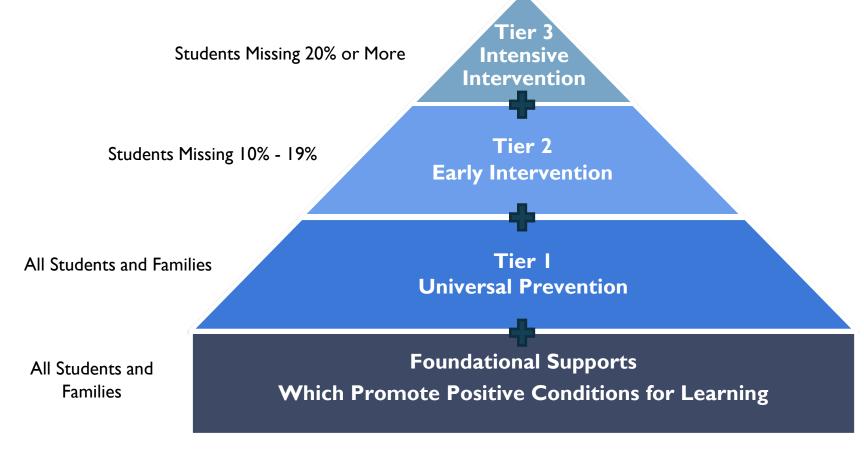


### Mobilize the Community: Involve All School Staff in Caring Conversations





### Multi-tiered System of Support for Attendance





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

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### **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 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.



### 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.

- Why the conversation went badly
- What could have helped

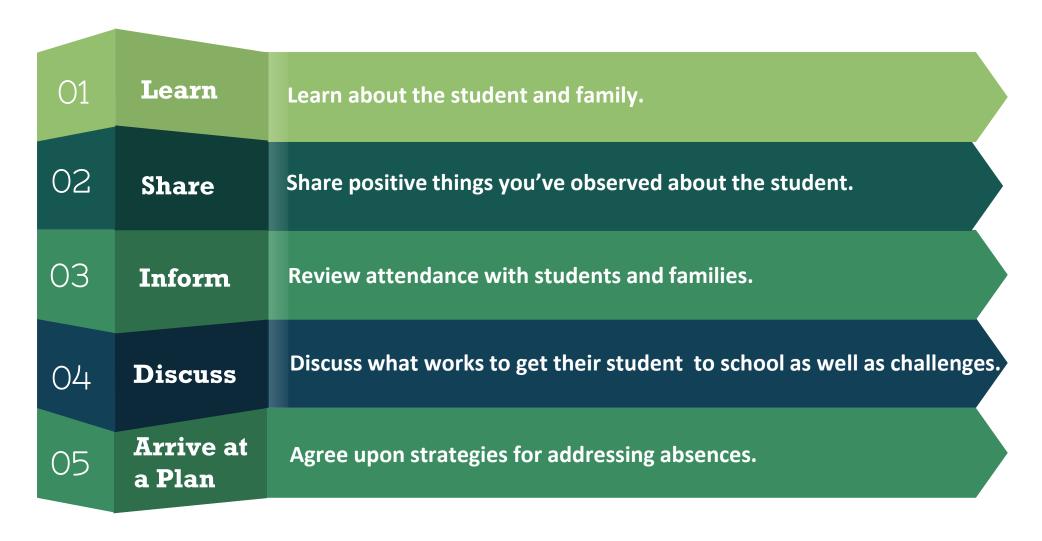


### Sample Scenario: Modeling Caring Conversations

- You are Peter's <u>teacher</u>. Peter is a 7th grader who struggles to keep up. Since returning to school in person, he has been quiet and distracted in class. In the first 12 weeks of school, he has missed 8 days and been tardy 15 times.
- You are Peter's <u>parent</u>. Peter has the responsibility for getting his younger siblings to elementary school since his parents are at work by the time the children wake up for school. The entire family is still grieving the death of your spouse.



#### The "Caring Conversations for Attendance" Process



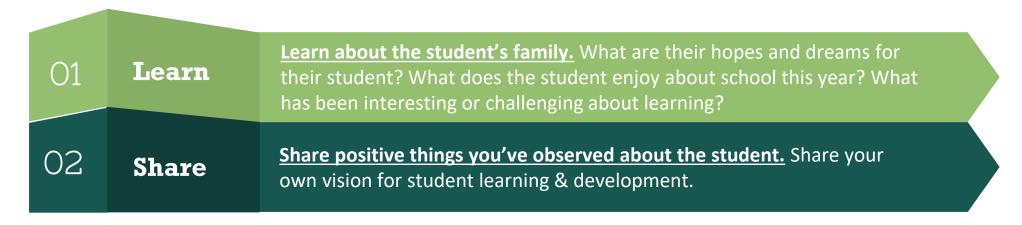




### Steps 1 & 2: Learn and Share

#### **Share in Chat:**

- What excellent questions can you ask to learn about a student's family?
- 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



https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/student-attendance-success-plans/



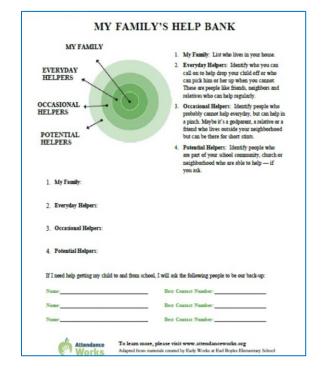
#### Step 4: Discuss

04

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



https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/student-attendance-success-plans/



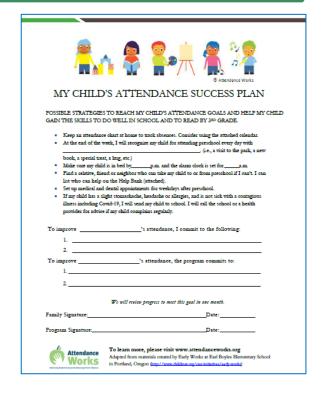
#### Step 5: Arrive at a Plan

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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



https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/student-attendance-success-plans/



### 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	<ul> <li>Positive observations about student so far</li> <li>What you want students to accomplish this year</li> <li>One goal is helping students acquire good habit of attendance</li> </ul>	is such a good listener. We love having her (you) in our class.
3. Inform	<ul> <li>Progress you've seen (start positive)</li> <li>Areas where child is struggling</li> <li>Review report card &amp; update parents on child's attendance</li> <li>Deliver appropriate attendance messages</li> </ul>	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	<ul><li>Challenges, attendance barriers</li><li>Learning at home activities</li><li>How to stay connected</li></ul>	What makes it hard for to get to school?  What helps catch up on learning given their absences?
5. Ask & Arrive at a Plan	<ul> <li>Are there any questions?</li> <li>Is there anything you can do to support a partnership between home and school?</li> <li>Make referrals to community resources</li> </ul>	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
- 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





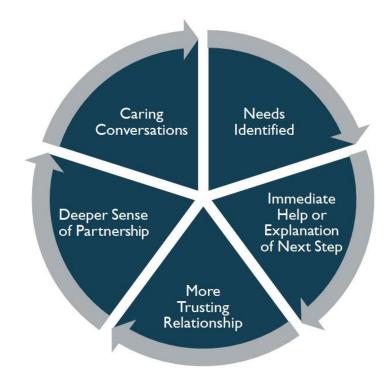
### **Listening to Parents**



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







### 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: <a href="https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/self-assessment/">https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/self-assessment/</a>

### **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

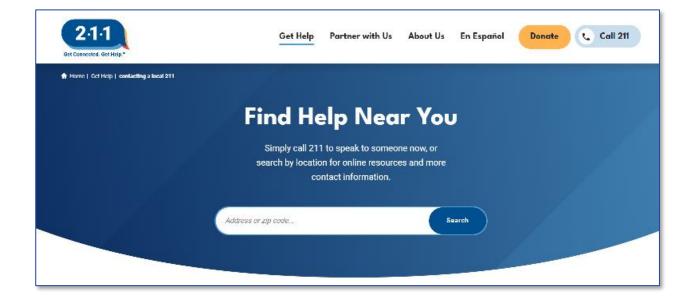
- National Service / Volunteers / Mentors
- Out-of-School Time providers
- · Social Emotional Learning Providers
- Social Services
- Population-Specific Service or Civic Organizations
- Philanthropy (including foundations and United Ways)





### 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

Health (Flu / COVID)

- Messaging on how to stay health
- School nurse educates on preventing spread of flu or Covid
- Ensure hygiene supplies available (soap, tissues, hand sanitizer)
- Onsite flu and Covid shots

School-based health center Local Clinic / Pediatrician

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		Work
hool District						
rimary School / I	District Contact					
Name		т	itle/Position:			
Email:	3 3 3	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 o
EXAMPLE: Springfield County Food Bank	name, email, phone#	food	all students	SY 2021-2022	name, email, phone#	8/1/21



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



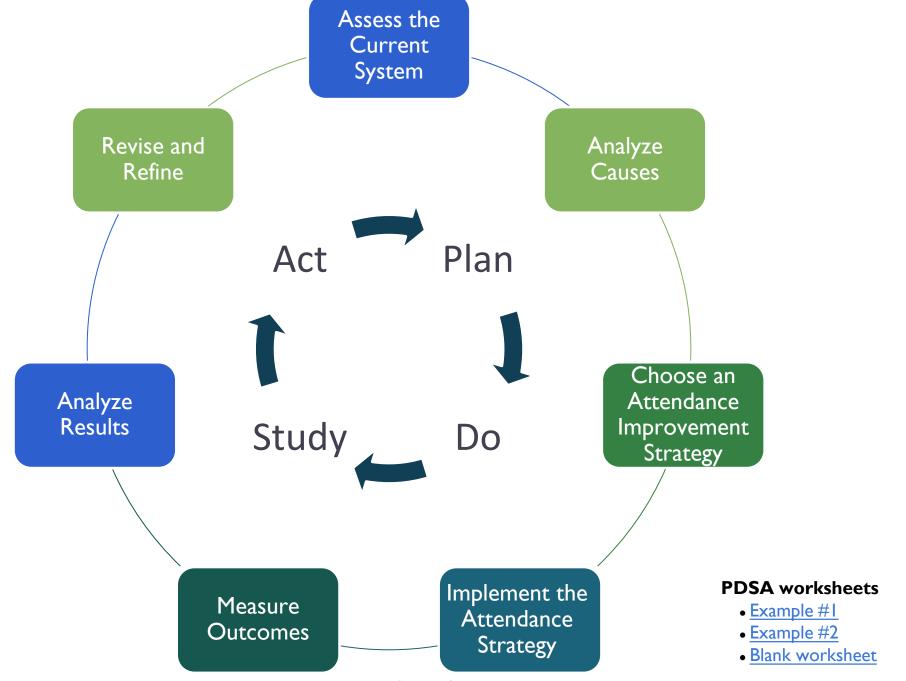


## **Measuring Progress**

## 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?



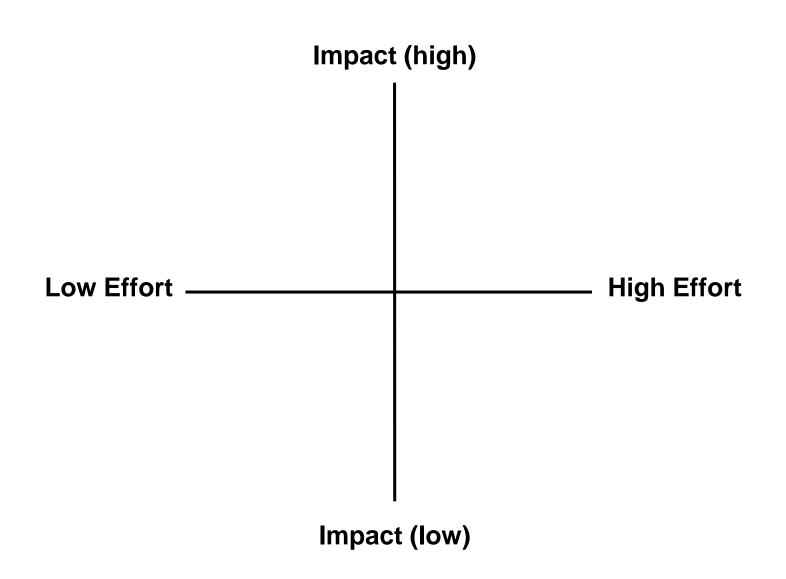


Attendance Works ©

## **Priority Matrix**

## Reflection:

What practices do you want to adapt, adopt or abandon?







## **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!



4.



## Questions from the Audience







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Inika Williams, Ed.D., Associate Director of Policy inika@attendanceworks.org



# 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: <a href="https://www.attendanceworks.org">www.attendanceworks.org</a>





## 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: <a href="https://www.future-ed.org/attendance-playbook/">https://www.future-ed.org/attendance-playbook/</a>

Implementation Guide: <a href="https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/attendance-playbook/">https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/attendance-playbook/</a>





## 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

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

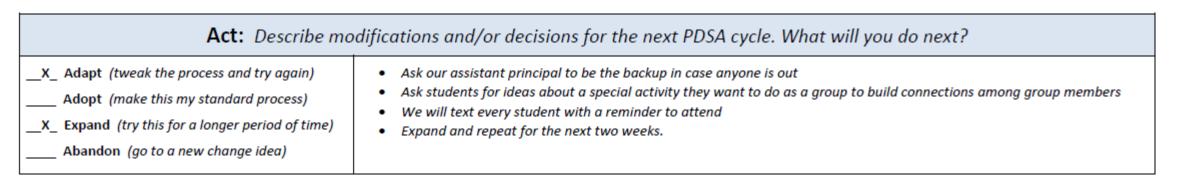
Plan			Do	Study
Details: What are the steps in the test? Who will implement it?	Predictions:  Make a prediction for each question. Not optional.	Data you will collect	Briefly describe: what happened during the test, surprises, difficulty getting data, obstacles, successes, etc.	What were the results? Comment on your predictions in the rows below. Were they correct? Record any data summaries as well.
1. Recruit counselors  2. Select location where groups can sit in a circle  3. Agree on conversation starters  4. Invite all students  5. Special outreach to students who are chronically absent  6. Note which students attended after each session	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.
	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
	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: <a href="https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/PDSA-Plan-Do-Study-Act-worksheet-EXAMPLE-rev-August-2023.pdf">https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/PDSA-Plan-Do-Study-Act-worksheet-EXAMPLE-rev-August-2023.pdf</a>
- Download the blank worksheet: <a href="https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/PDSA-Plan-Do-Study-Act-worksheet-BLANK-rev-August-2023.pdf">https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/PDSA-Plan-Do-Study-Act-worksheet-BLANK-rev-August-2023.pdf</a>



## 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

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

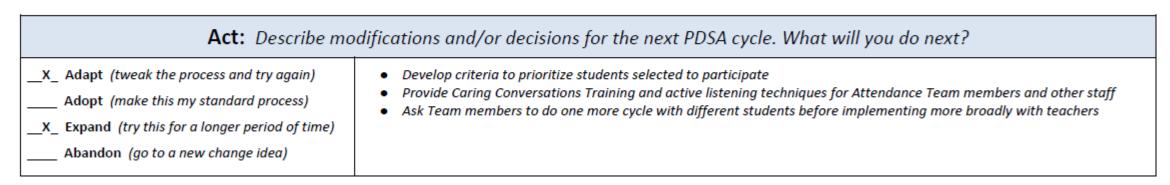
	Plan		Do	Study
Details: What are the steps in the test? Who will implement it?	Predictions: Make a prediction for each question. Not optional.	Data you will collect	Briefly describe: what happened during the test, surprises, difficulty getting data, obstacles, successes, etc.	What were the results? Comment 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

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



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- Download the blank worksheet: <a href="https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/PDSA-Plan-Do-Study-Act-worksheet-BLANK-rev-August-2023.pdf">https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/PDSA-Plan-Do-Study-Act-worksheet-BLANK-rev-August-2023.pdf</a>





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