



EQUITY
ASSISTANCE
CENTER -
SOUTH AT SEF

How to Improve Student Attendance and Engagement

ADVANTAGES OF ADDRESSING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

- Enhanced Academic Performance
- Stronger Student Engagement
- Improved School Climate
- Higher Graduation Rates
- Stronger Social-Emotional Well-Being



IMPROVING STUDENT ATTENDANCE FOR BETTER OUTCOMES

To achieve positive attendance outcomes, school districts can consider the following initiatives:

Examine the Data: Collect and analyze data to understand the specific challenges student face. This proactive approach helps address root causes of absenteeism and ensures that students receive the support they need to succeed.

Understand Potential Root Causes: Identify and address the underlying factors contributing to chronic absenteeism, such as barriers, aversion, disengagement, and misconceptions. Use detailed data to pinpoint affected students and tailor interventions effectively by disaggregating the data.

Launch Monday Attendance Enhancement Programs: Address Monday morning absenteeism by offering engaging activities like dance, writing workshops, and interactive sessions.

Positive Conditions for Learning: To create effective learning environments, ensure students' physical and emotional well-being, foster a strong sense of belonging, and offer engaging academic

challenges. Prioritize the emotional health of both students and educators to support a thriving educational community.

Conduct a Mult-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) for Attendance: Establish a tiered approach to provide varying levels of support to improve student attendance. Ensure general approaches (e.g., transportation and breakfast) and provide targeted interventions such as personalized support plans, mentoring programs, and collaboration with community resources.

Focus on Key Elements for Improving Attendance: Build capacity by enhancing staff skills and resources, use actionable data to guide strategies, and foster positive engagement. Establish strategic partnerships, ensure equitable resource distribution, and promote shared accountability among all stakeholders.

For help with implementing these strategies, contact the Equity Assistance Center – South
The Southern Education Foundation at: eacsouth@southerneducation.org



THE IMPACT OF CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism, defined as missing 10% or more of school days in a year, is closely linked to educational inequities, including academic achievement gaps. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted and exacerbated these disparities, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions and support systems to ensure all students have access to consistent learning opportunities. Addressing chronic absenteeism is crucial for creating an educational environment where every student can thrive both academically and socially.

Frequent absences from school negatively affect student engagement, learning outcomes, and overall academic success.

Academic Impact: Leads to gaps in learning and lower academic achievement due to missed instruction and coursework, which can result in students struggling to keep up with their peers academically.

Social and Emotional Development: Students may experience isolation and difficulty forming relationships with peers when absent frequently, impacting their social and emotional growth as they miss out on crucial social interactions and bonding experiences.

Behavioral Issues: Chronic absenteeism is often linked to behavioral challenges such as disengagement, acting out, and disciplinary issues in the classroom, which can disrupt the learning environment for all students.

Educational Outcomes: Hinders progress towards graduation and post-secondary opportunities, impacting long-term educational and career prospects by limiting students' access to necessary skills, knowledge, and experiences gained through regular attendance.

For additional details and resources, please scan the QR code.



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