

Key Evidence-Based Changes for Attendance

Data	Relationships	Motivation	Problem-Solving
<i>To improve attendance, you need to know who is absent, in what amount, at different levels i.e., infrequent, near chronic, chronic, extreme etc., when, and why and this information needs to be readily accessible to school leaders, teachers, student support staff, parents and students.</i>	<i>Positive, supportive relationships between students and adults and student to student are central to establishing root causes, encouraging regular school attendance, and problem solving. Once a student is chronically absent typically you need to solve a problem or change a behavior to improve attendance, and this is very difficult to do without having a good relationship with the students and parents.</i>	<i>Examine and intervening for students who are not attending because of avoidance issues or disengagement due to their motivation to attend school can have positive effects on attendance.</i>	<i>Barriers, obstacles, and mindsets preventing regular attendance need to be removed when possible and their impacts mediated and moderated when it is not. Both require practical problem-solving actions and capacity.</i>
Establish consistent attendance taking and recording procedures with common definitions Consistent Attendance Taking	Conduct a relationship audit for chronically absent students. Identify adults who have existing positive relationships with these students have them work with the students to identify barriers to good attendance. Also identify extent of any relationship gaps i.e., chronically absent students without any positive relationships with adults in school. Relationship Audit	Make the school environment an inviting place to be, have students be welcomed by name by someone who they know when they enter school and classrooms. School Environment	Make sure chronically absent students have a means to complete missing schoolwork and access tutoring . Teach succeeding in school and social-emotional skills i.e., self-management, note taking, relationship skills. Agency Complete Missing Work and Tutoring
Establish data systems that enable all key parties to access attendance data on the students they interact with (including parents) in as close to real time as possible. Enable them to flag students with strong attendance, chronic absenteeism, and those trending towards it Establish Data Systems	Use interest surveys to foster and strengthen relationships by linking students and adults based on shared interests and hobbies. Interest Surveys	Show students and parents the connection between regular attendance and success at school and how it's easier than they might think to become chronically absent i.e., just missing two days a month Attendance and Success	Reduce bullying –create inclusivity clubs-to ensure all students feel safe and welcome in school Reduce Bullying

<p>Use student surveys, focus groups, interviews, and attendance audits to understand why students are not attending and the distribution across key categories i.e., out of school factors, avoidance of things in school and to and from school, disengagement etc.</p> <p>Surveys, Focus Groups, Interviews, Audits</p>	<p>Conduct peer interaction surveys to establish which subset of students interconnect with most students, train them to be peer leaders and advocates for good attendance.</p> <p>Peer Interaction Surveys</p>	<p>Use social recognition (photo on wall, intercom shout-out, recognition event) to publicly recognize good and improved attendance at classroom, grade, and individual level</p> <p>Social Recognition</p>	<p>Identify and change policies that discourage students, often inadvertently, from attending school on a regular basis i.e. what are viewed as harsh consequences for being late, missing a set amount of school results in automatic failure etc.</p> <p>Identify and Change Policies</p>
Data	Relationships	Motivation	Problem Solving
<p>Analyze school level attendance patterns at regular levels to identify trends as classroom, grade, and school level, as well trends by time of year</p> <p>Attendance Patterns</p>	<p>Train older students serve as home room captains for younger students and encourage all members of their “team” to be there everyday</p> <p>Home Room Captains</p>	<p>Make the adults in the building aware how sensitive chronically absent students can be to the language used to acknowledge their return to school i.e., avoid sarcasm and greet them warmly</p> <p>Language Usage</p>	<p>Work with community partners to provide health and other services for issues that have been linked with high rates of absenteeism i.e., asthma</p> <p>Community Partners</p>
<p>Use the data to create attendance nudge messaging i.e., postcards and texts to students and parents give them updated information on cumulative absences and their consequences</p> <p>Nudge Messaging</p>	<p>Establish a Success Mentor program-where chronically absent students are matched with a caring adult who interacts with them at least 3x per week in school and signals that students are missed when they are not there</p> <p>Success Mentor Program</p>	<p>Link chronically absent students and those trending towards it with extra-curricular, service learning, and leadership activities that engage them</p> <p>Links for Chronically Absent Students</p>	<p>Work to solve any transportation issues preventing students from having a safe, secure, and consistent means to get to and from school each day, including in inclement weather (i.e., umbrellas, and winter wear).</p> <p>Solve Transportation Issues</p>