



Student-Led Attendance Teams

Minneapolis Public Schools

Empowering students to actively participate in building the culture of their school can have a significant impact on school-wide climate and positively impact daily attendance and the overall well-being of students.

Building a Student-Led Attendance Team:

- Establish grade level participation. If lower elementary grade levels will not be regular participants, identify techniques to gather their voice.
- Identify a regular schedule – day, time, and space, for meetings. Teams should meet every other week at minimum.
- Selection of students can be peer nominated or targeted identification.
- To allow time to generate ideas, implement, and review actions you should have the same group all year. Work can be more effective when team members know each other, learn to trust each other, and share their stories together. Spend some time exploring why they care, what motivates them, and what they hope to accomplish by being part of the team.

Duties of Student-Led Attendance Teams:

- Select a name for your team.
- Teams are about relationships. Create a way to foster connections between members.
- Identify rules and expectations of participation.
- Review attendance of school, discuss reasons for absences, brainstorm ideas to increase attendance, implement ideas, seek feedback, review results.
- Be an innovator!
 - ❖ Focus on what you can change.
 - ❖ Become familiar with what your peers are experiencing.
 - ❖ Increase your knowledge about process and change.
 - ❖ Understand the power of your voice.
 - ❖ Be part of creating an environment where students feel welcome and have the support they need to be successful.
 - ❖ Set the foundation for better attendance and grades for all!

In the early meetings, teams should establish norms, define goals and expectations, and establish a fair decision-making process. It is important that they can communicate with each other openly, freely, and democratically.

Expectations of Staff Facilitator:

- Recruit students for participation.
- Facilitate bi-weekly student-led attendance team meetings.
- Prepare data and relevant materials. Graphs, charts, tables of data. Walk students through analysis of data.
- Track student participation, ideas, activities, outcomes.
- Participate in quarterly facilitator meetings (virtual on Teams).

Deliverables: Student Led Attendance Teams will

- become informed and understand the impact student absences have on their peers and school.
- engage peers in identifying obstacles to daily attendance.
- develop ideas/actions that create a sense of belonging, positively impact daily attendance, and are inclusive to all students.
- implement ideas.
- review outcomes and identify next steps.

Each team member should know that their participation contributes to the whole and that as a team they can have a valuable impact on student attendance and engagement.