

Showing Up Together: Reading and Attendance Go Hand in Hand

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Presenters



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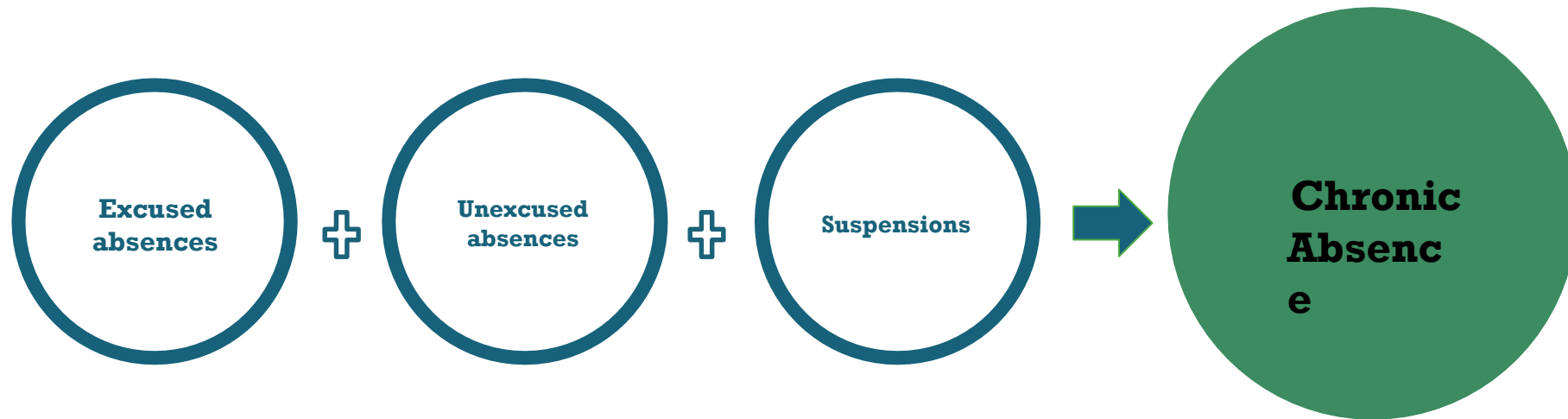


Hedy Chang
Executive Director and President
Attendance Works



What is chronic absence?

Chronic absence is missing so much school for any reason that a student is academically at risk. Chronic absence is defined as **missing 10 percent or more of school for any reason.**



Chronic absence is different from **truancy** (unexcused absences only) or **average daily attendance** (how many students show up to school each day).

What is the difference between truancy and chronic absence?

Truancy

- ▲ Counts ONLY unexcused absences
- ▲ Emphasizes individual compliance with school rules
- ▲ Uses legal, typically more blaming and punitive, solutions



Chronic Absence

- Counts ALL absences (*excused, unexcused & suspensions*)
- Emphasizes impact of missed days
- Uses preventative, problem-solving, trauma-sensitive strategies
- Cultivates family & student engagement starting in PreK/K



**What is the relationship
between absences & equity?**

**Absenteeism is a *leading* indicator and a
cause of educational inequity**

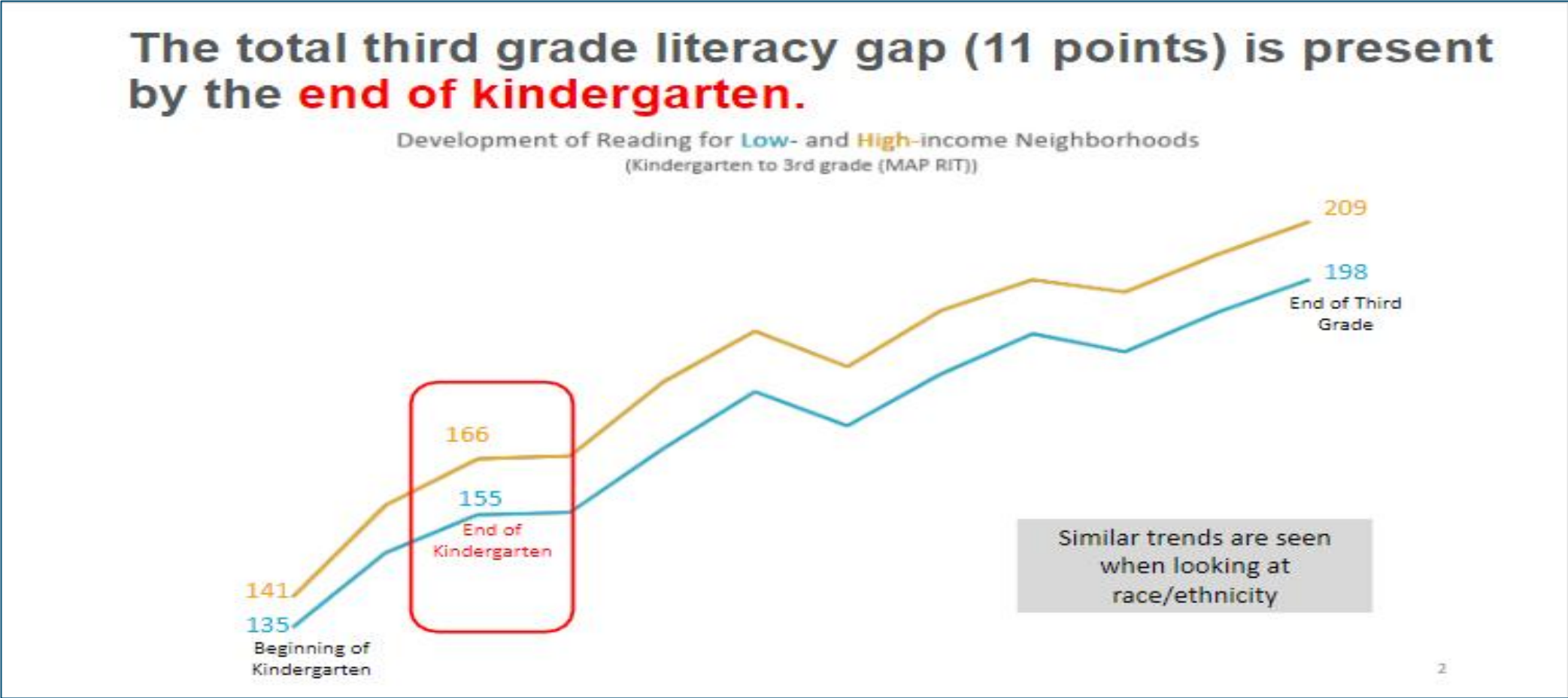


Chronic Absence is Especially Challenging for Low-income Children

- ✓ Poor children are **4x** more likely to be chronically absent in K than their highest income peers.
- ✓ Children in poverty are more likely to lack basic health and safety supports (health care, transportation, stable housing, food, clothes, etc.) that ensure a child is more likely to get to school.
- ✓ The adverse impact of absenteeism on literacy development is **75% greater** for these children than for their middle-class peers.

Sources: M. Romero and Y.S. Lee, A National Portrait of Chronic Absenteeism in the Early Grades, The National Center for Children In Poverty, Columbia University, October 2007.; Ready, Douglas D., Socioeconomic Disadvantage, School Attendance, and Early Cognitive Development, The Differential Effects of School Exposure, Sociology of Education, October 2010.

Kindergarten Chronic absence likely contributes to the literacy gap at the kindergarten which is so hard to close.



Source: Professor James Kim, Harvard University and the Campaign for Grad Level Reading



Chronic Absences Starting in K Can Affect Long-Term Outcomes

Chronic absence in kindergarten

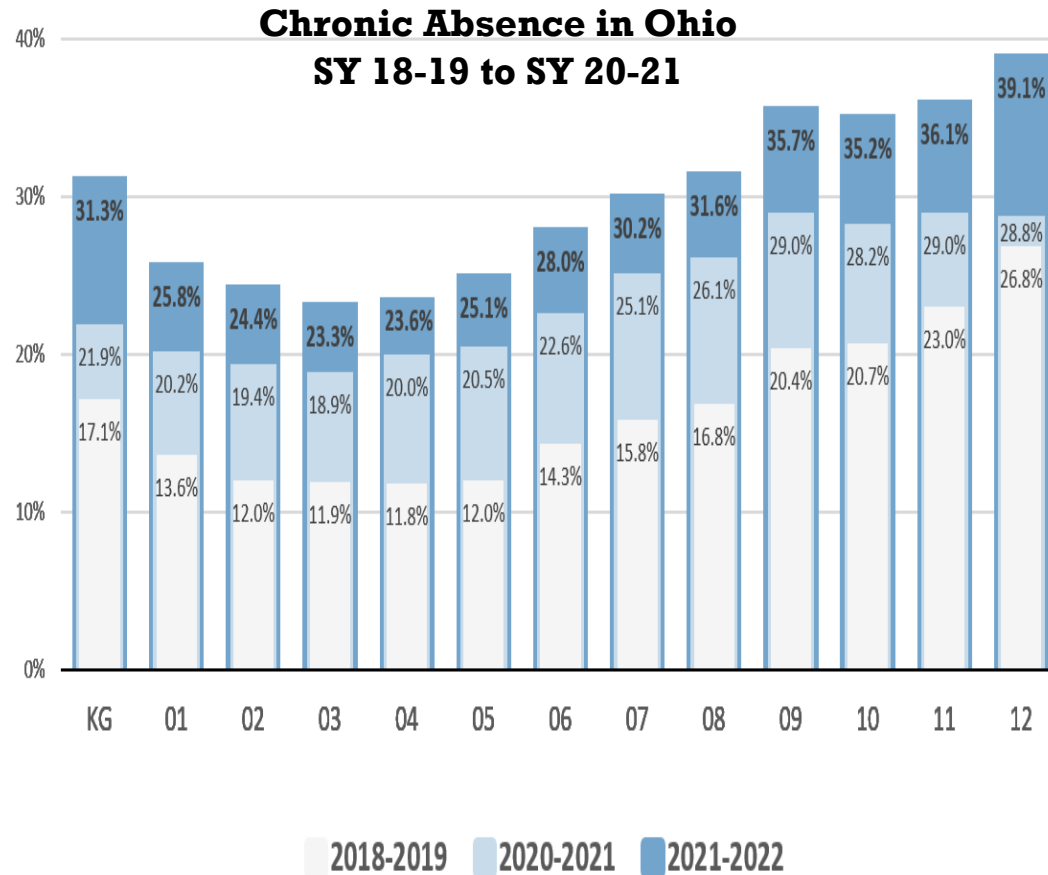
Lower levels of literacy in first grade

Lower achievement as far out as fifth grade

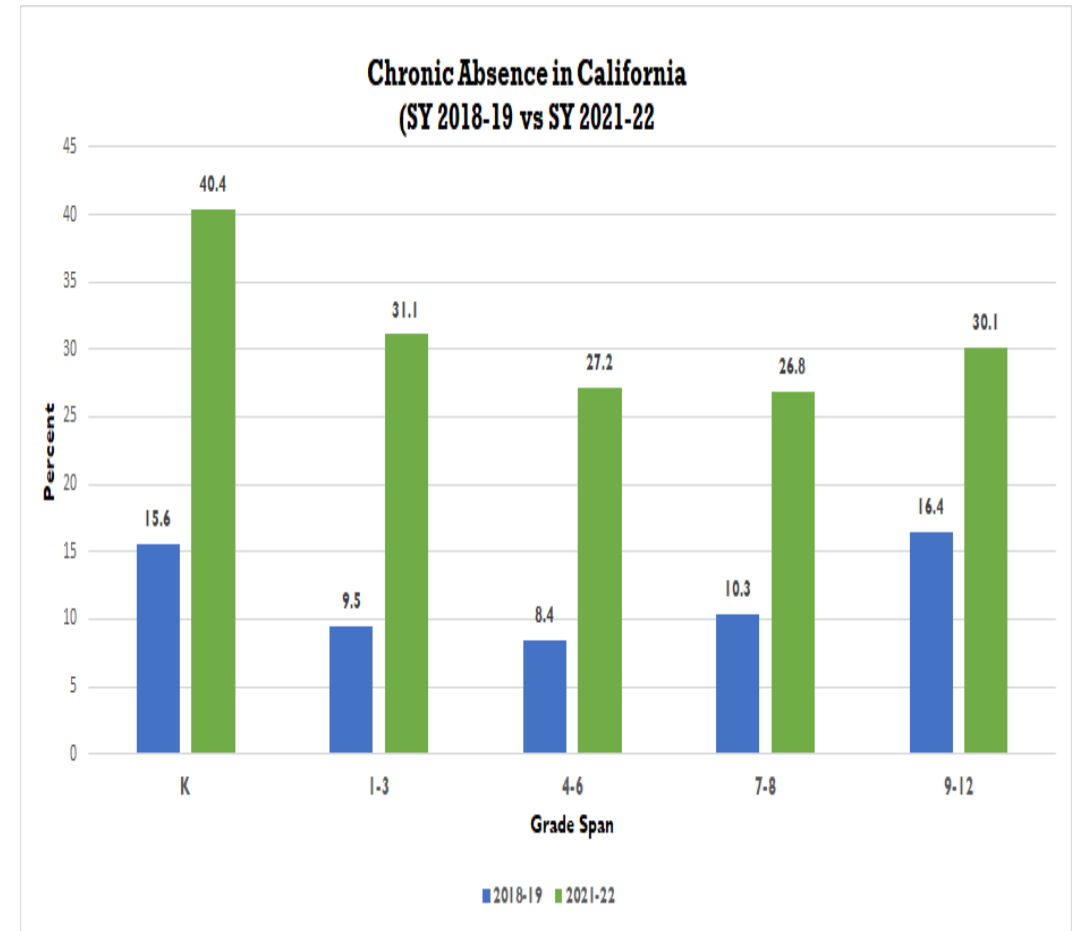
A Rhode Island Data Hub analysis found that compared to kindergartners who attend regularly, those chronically absent (missing 10% of school):

- Scored **20% lower in reading and math** in later grades and gap grows.
- **2X** as likely to be **retained** in grade.
- **2X** likely to be **suspended** by the end of 7th grade.
- Likely to continue being chronically absent.

Alarming Increases Kindergarten Chronic Absence



Note: Because chronic absence is not reported by grade to USDOE for Ed Facts, national data on kindergarten chronic absence is not available.





Solutions must reflect an understanding of why students are absent

Barriers

- Chronic and acute illness
- Family responsibilities or home situation
- Trauma
- Poor transportation
- Housing and food insecurity
- Inequitable access to needed services
- System involvement
- Lack of predictable schedules for learning
- Lack of access to tech
- Community violence
- Etc. and many more!

Aversion

- Struggling academically and/or behaviorally
- Unwelcoming school climate
- Social and peer challenges
- Anxiety
- Biased disciplinary and suspension practices
- Undiagnosed disability and/or disability accommodations
- Parents had negative educational experiences

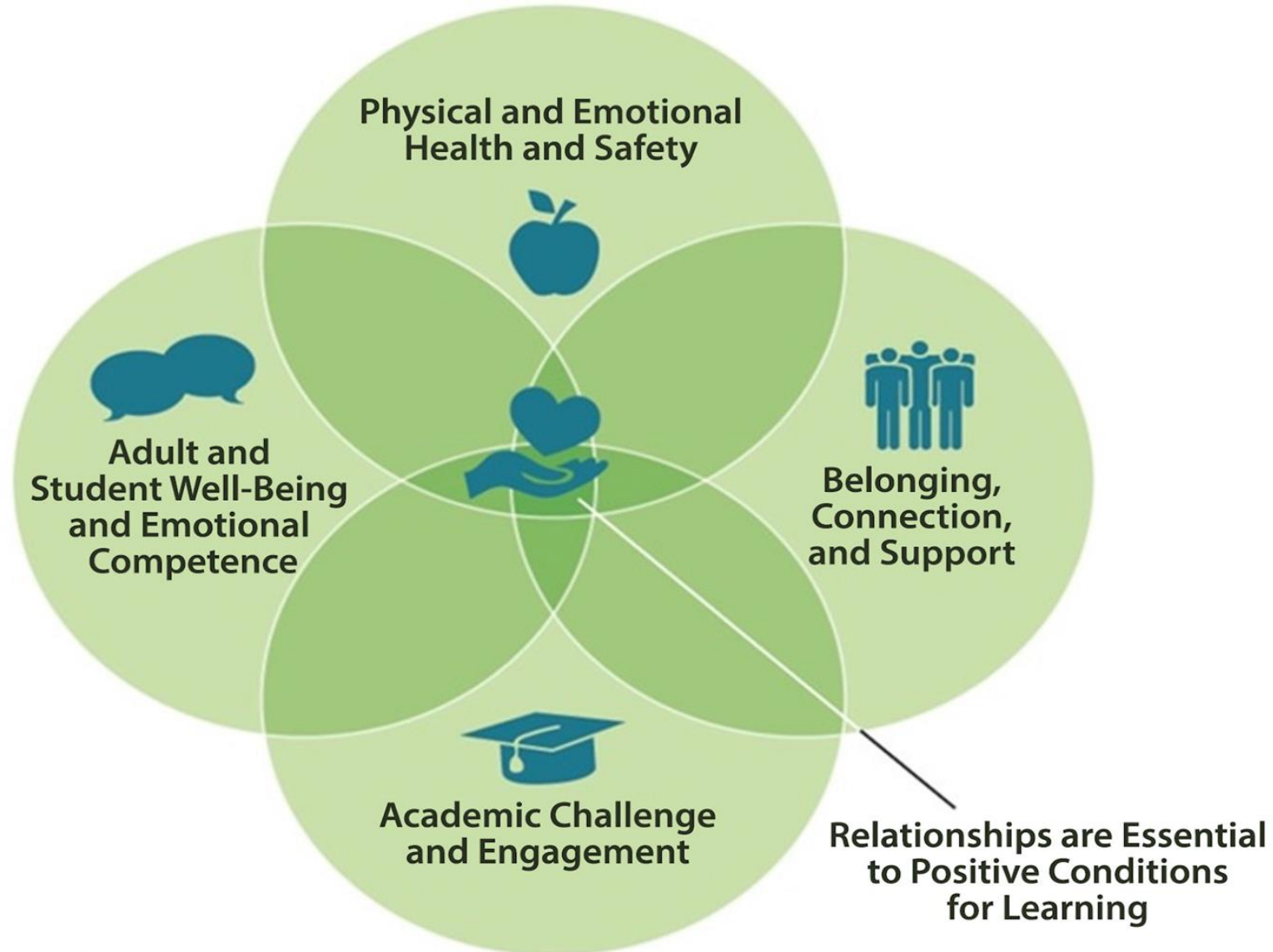
Disengagement

- Lack of challenging, culturally responsive instruction
- Bored
- No meaningful relationships to adults in the school (especially given staff shortages)
- Lack of enrichment opportunities
- Lack of academic and behavioral support
- Failure to earn credits
- Drawn to low-wage job vs. being in high school

Misconceptions

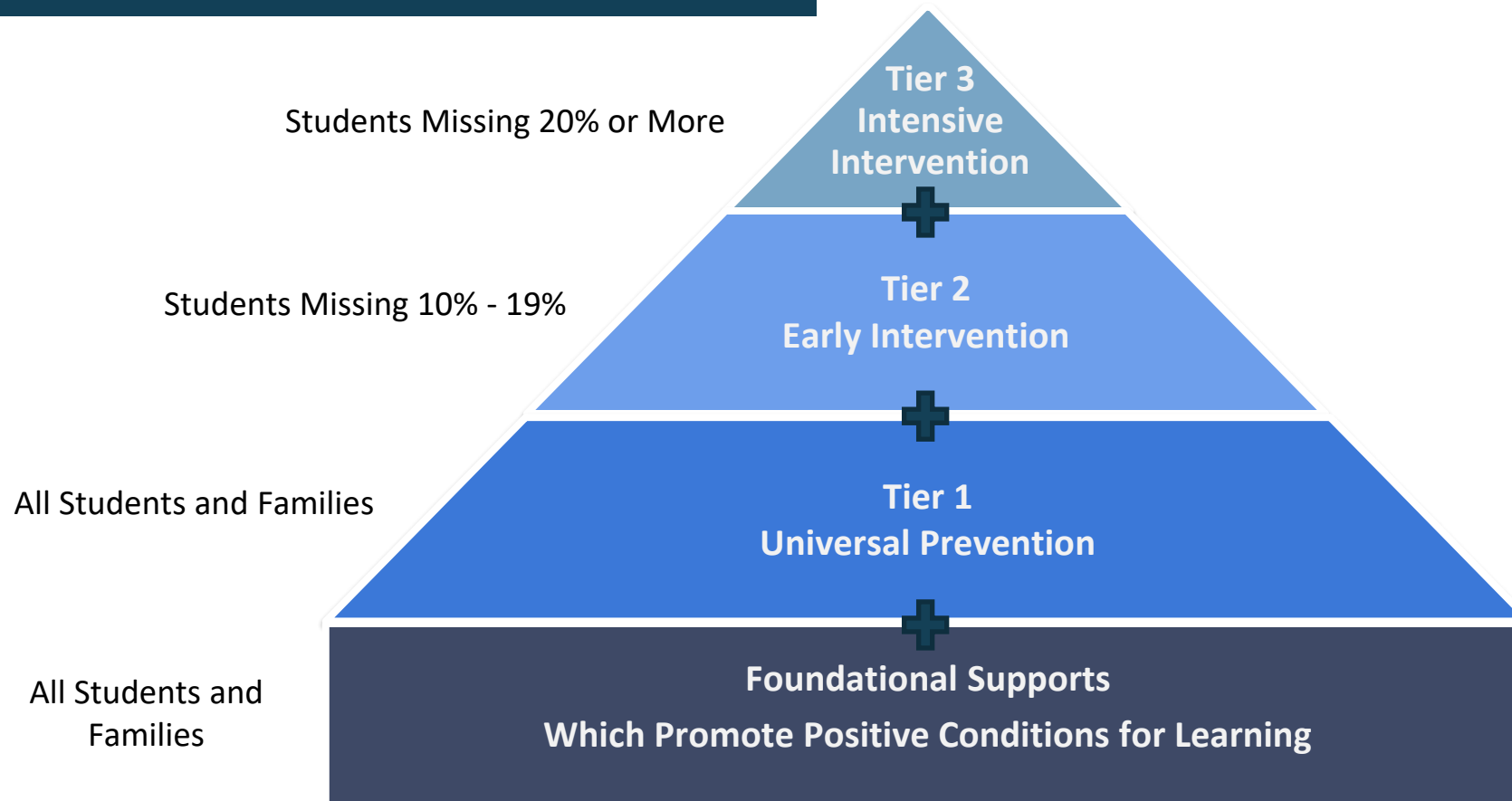
- Absences are only a problem if they are unexcused
- Missing 2 days per month doesn't affect learning
- Lose track and underestimate TOTAL absences
- Sporadic absences aren't a problem
- Attendance only matters in the older grades
- Suspensions don't count as absence

High Levels of Chronic Absence Signal That Positive Conditions For Learning Aren't In Place for Families





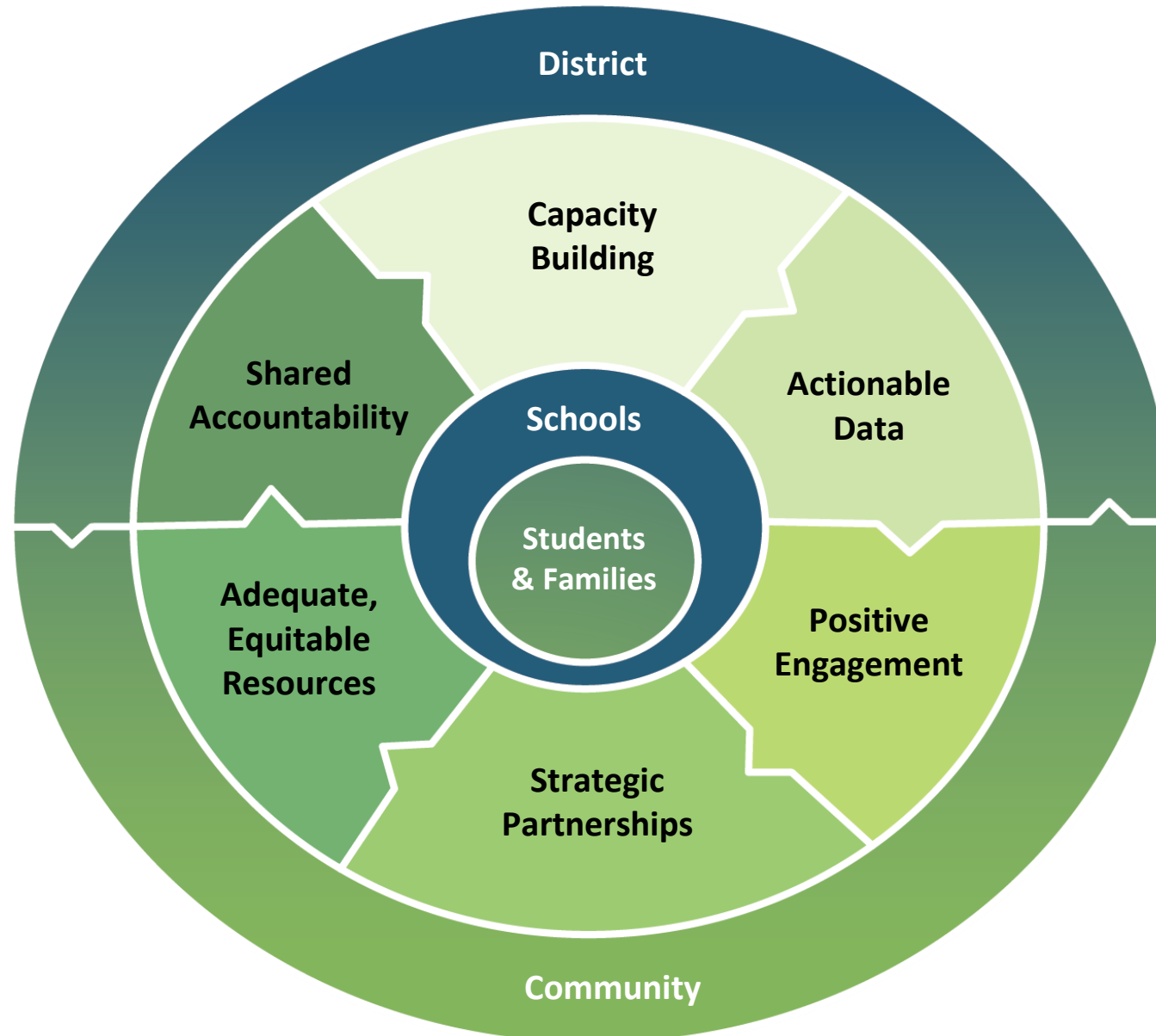
Multi-tiered System of Support for Attendance



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

www.attendanceworks.org

Need A Systemic Approach

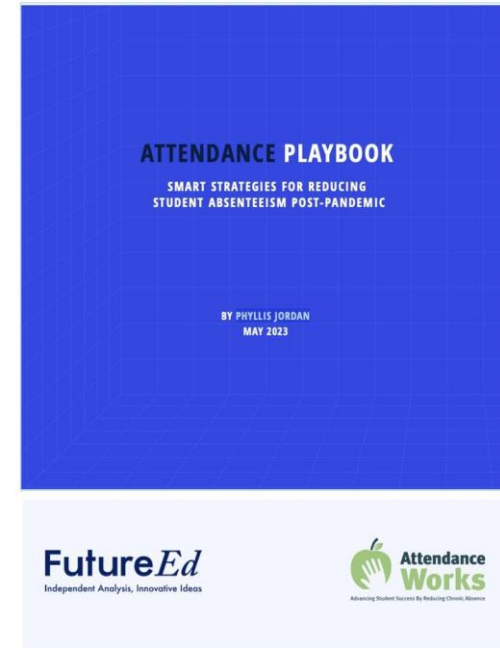


Attendance Playbook 3.0

- A joint project by FutureEd and Attendance Works
- Offers interventions for reducing chronic absence

Provides:

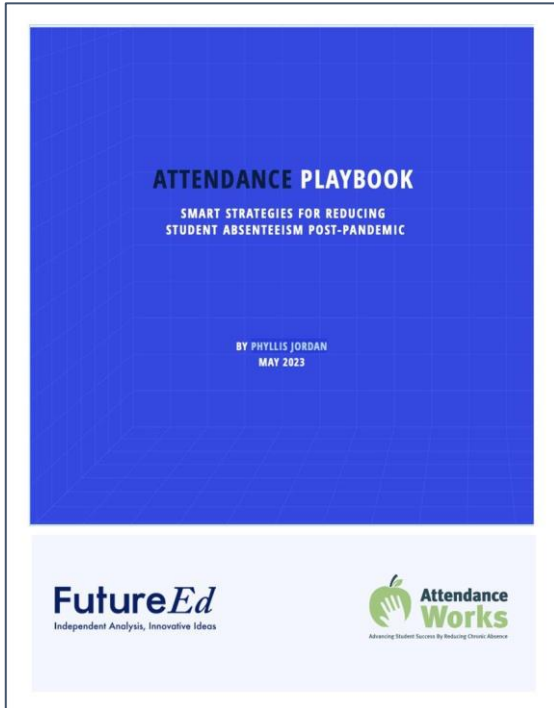
- ✓ ESSA research level
- ✓ MTTTS tier of support
- ✓ Research and resources



LINK: <https://www.future-ed.org/attendance-playbook/>



Interventions that can be found in the Attendance Playbook



TIER I: Foundational Support and Schoolwide Prevention

- Community Schools
- Engaging with Families
- Student-Teacher Relationships
- Relevant—and Culturally Relevant—Instruction
- Restorative Discipline Practices
- Summer Learning and Afterschool Strategies
- Positive Greetings at the Door
- Incentives
- Rethinking Recess
- Healthy School Buildings
- School-based Health Services
- Telehealth
- Free Meals for All
- School Buses and Public Transit
- A Safer Walk to School
- Laundry at School

TIER II: Targeted Support

- Early Warning Systems
- Targeted Home Visits
- Mentors and Tutors
- Targeted Youth Engagement
- Addressing Asthma
- Mental Health Support and School Refusal
- Students with Disabilities
- Immigrant Students

TIER III: Intensive Support

- Interagency Case Management
- Housing Insecurity
- Truancy

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

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



Attendance Awareness Campaign 2023

Working Towards Collective Action



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2023 AAC Theme!

Theme:
Showing Up Together!

- Topics:**
- Inclusivity, Belonging
 - Working Together
 - School is for Everyone



Convening Partners AAC 2023!



See the full list of national and state campaign partners here: <https://awareness.attendanceworks.org/partners-2/>



Attendance Awareness Campaign: *Key Strategies*

- I. **A strategic messaging and awareness-building campaign** that includes the designation of September as Attendance Awareness Month as the launch of year-long attendance campaigns
- II. **Community-level action and engagement**, especially in conjunction with Attendance Awareness Month; and
- III. **National and local-level public events**, to occur all year with an emphasis on the month of September, that garner media attention and raise public awareness

2023 WILL BE OUR 11th ANNUAL CAMPAIGN!!



Key Resource: Attendance Awareness Website

- ✓ Download our free social media materials and share with local districts
- ✓ Proclaim September Attendance Awareness Month building off our sample proclamation
- ✓ Join our listserv: 44,000+ members

PROMOTE THE CAMPAIGN

Attendance
Awareness
Campaign 2023

[Attendance Works](#) [About](#) [Resources](#) [Partners](#) [Sponsors](#)
[Blog](#) [Newsroom](#) [Donate](#) [Contact](#) [Join the Campaign!](#)

Join us for webinar # 1, *Belonging and Engagement: The keys to Showing up, March 30!*

Join the Campaign! Sign up for updates:
www.awareness.attendanceworks.org



2023 Count Us In! Toolkit

An easy on-ramp for developing or expanding a local or statewide attendance awareness campaign.

- ★ Tips
- ★ Templates
- ★ Proven strategies

What to Do When: At a Glance



Let's get started!

- Convene coalition
- Recruit partners
- Meet with district
- Enlist health care providers
- Launch poster contests and other marketing campaigns

Early Summer

Getting into specifics

- Distribute talking points
- Enlist elected officials & celebs
- Line up incentives
- Analyze data



Late Summer

It's Go Time

- Tape PSAs
- Begin media outreach
- Print banners & posters
- Plan assemblies and Back-to-School events
- Launch door-knocking campaigns

Back to School!

- Release proclamations
- Host Back-to-School events
- Host press conferences
- Share data
- Spread the word!



<https://awareness.attendanceworks.org/>



2023 AAC Webinars

March 30 – Belonging and Engagement: The Keys to Showing Up

May 10 – Relationships All Year Round: Nurturing Showing Up

Aug 9 – A Welcoming & Healthy Return to School: Ensuring Showing Up

Sept 27 – Sustaining Success: Investing in Showing Up

Time: 12:00pm – 1:30pm PT / 3:00pm - 4:30 pm ET

Register: www.awareness.attendanceworks.org/resources/webinars



Questions?

Have questions about the Attendance Awareness Campaign, including where to find resources?

- **Contact: Catherine Cooney**
Communications Director, Attendance Works
- catherine@attendanceworks.org

Caldwell Attendance Video



Upcoming GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinars:



LEARNING LOSS RECOVERY WEBINAR

Opportunities and Potential Pitfalls: State Expansion of Education Savings Accounts
Tuesday, May 30, 3:00-4:30 p.m. ET/12-1:30 p.m. PT

FUNDERS WEBINAR

Leave No Human Behind: How Are Funders Closing the Gap in Digital Literacy?
Philanthropy Workshop #7, Co-sponsored by The Patterson Foundation
June 6, 12:30-1:45 pm ET/9:30-10:45 am PT

LEARNING LOSS RECOVERY WEBINAR

Rising to the Challenge: How Housing Agencies Can Support Attendance and Engagement in School
Tuesday, June 13, 12:30-2:00 p.m. ET/9:30-11:00 a.m. PT

Please Join Us

gradelevelreading.net @readingby3rd #GLReading #LearningTuesdays #GLRKeepers

