

Early Warning

Attendance-Behavior-Course Performance

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MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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VISION

To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens

MISSION

To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community

What's Your Color?

-  What is the role of a parent liaison?
-  How would you define or describe meaningful parent involvement?
-  What do you see as barriers to doing your job?
-  How do you describe success-as it relates to your job?
-  What have you done that has helped you bridge the gap between families and the district/school?
-  What advice would you give other parent liaisons?

Parent Liaison Defined

Parent Liaison is an employee of a district who works to bridge the gap between home and school by helping parents get the information and support they need to ensure their child's academic and social success.

**A DEDICATED *team*
OF EDUCATORS
MANAGE THESE
SYSTEMS.**



PRINCIPALS

5 Tools of Successful Students

1. High attendance
2. Did not get suspended
3. No course failures
4. B or better GPA
5. Mid-level or better test scores



At-Risk Student Defined

The term at-risk is often used to describe students or groups of students who are considered to have a higher probability of failing academically or dropping out of school.



Situations That Put Youth At Risk



Student Related

- Poor school attitude
- Low ability level
- Attendance/truancy
- Behavior/discipline problems
- Pregnancy
- Drug abuse
- Poor peer relationships
- Nonparticipation
- Friends have dropped out
- Illness/disability
- Low self-esteem/self-efficacy



Community Related

- Lack of community support services or response
- Lack of community support for schools
- High incidences of criminal activities
- Lack of school/community linkages



School Related

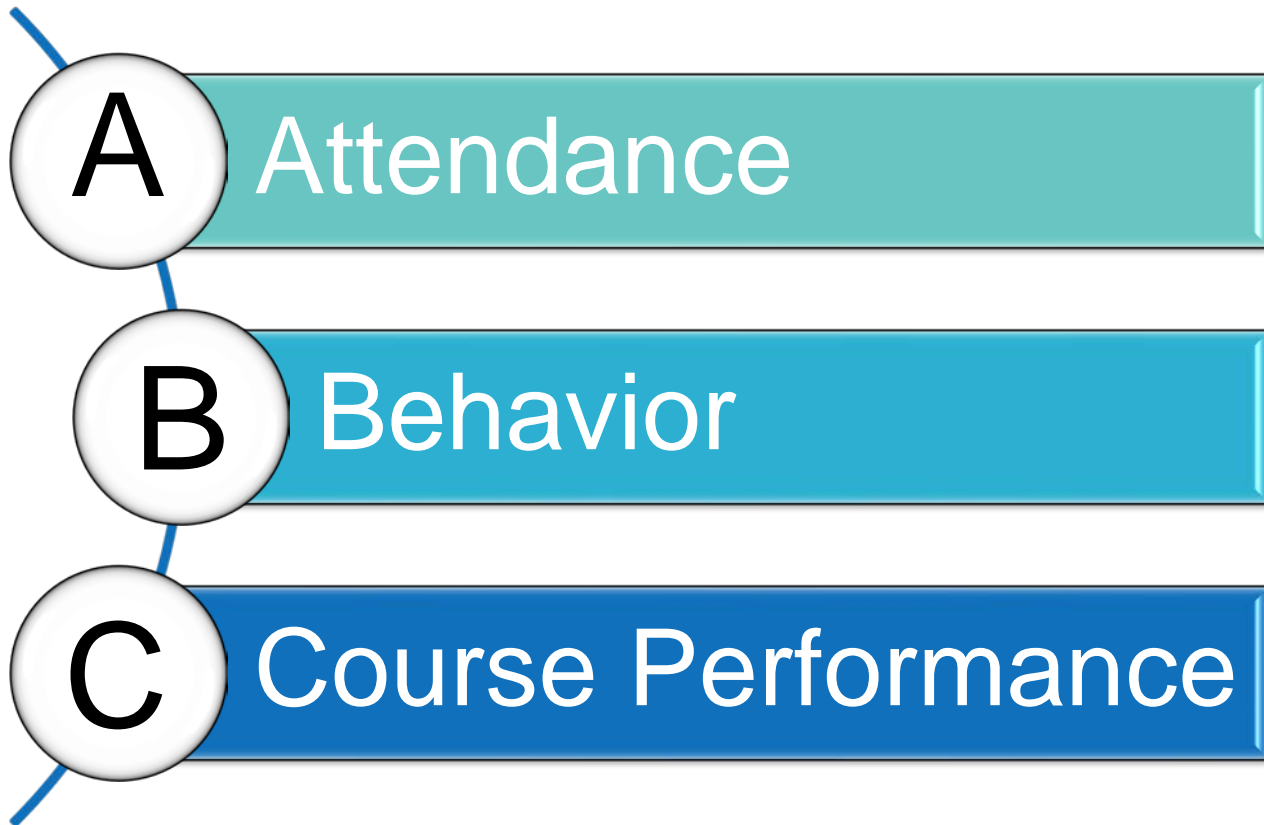
- Home/school culture
- Ineffective discipline system
- Lack of adequate counseling
- Negative school climate
- Lack of relevant curriculum
- Passive instructional strategies
- Inappropriate use of technology
- Disregard of student learning styles
- Retentions/Suspensions
- Low expectations
- Lack of language instruction



Family Related

- Low SES
- Dysfunctional home life
- No parental involvement
- Low parental expectations
- Non-English-speaking home
- Ineffective parenting/abuse
- High mobility

Early Warning Signs of a Dropout



Importance of Data

“Without data, all
anybody has
is an opinion”

Edward Deming



Definition of Attendance

The number of times a person attends

Weekly Class Attendance [School Name] _____

Teacher _____ Course _____ Week Of **Mon 9/5/11**
 Room _____ Period/Time _____ Year 2011-2012

Student Name	Monday				Tuesday				Wednesday				Thursday				Friday				Totals								
	T	U	E	P	Note	T	U	E	P	Note	T	U	E	P	Note	T	U	E	P	Note	T	U	E	P					
1.																													
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Understanding WHY students are absent needs to be addressed before you decide WHAT you're going to do about it!



Mississippi law requires children from ages 6-17 years old to attend a public school, private school, or to receive home-based instruction.



Truant Defined

Truant – a student that has accumulated five (5) or more unlawful absences in a school year, excluding suspension and expulsion days.

Habitually Truant – a student who has accumulated twelve (12) or more unlawful absences, excluding suspension and expulsion days, in a school year, which shall result in the filing of a petition in a court of competent jurisdiction by the school attendance officer.

Unlawful Absence

- ✓ An "unlawful absence" is an absence during a school day by a compulsory-school-age child, which absence is not due to a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance.
- ✓ An “unlawful absence” is any compulsory school-age child who is absent thirty-seven percent (37%) or more of a school day, which the absence is not due to a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance.

Non-Compulsory

- ✓ If a compulsory-school-age student turns seventeen by December 31st they are no longer compulsory on January 1st.
- ✓ If a compulsory-school-age student turns seventeen by Sept 1 they are no longer compulsory.



Why Does Attendance Matter?

What do we know from researchers around the country?

Shift in Mindset-Shift Focus From:

Attendance = Compliance

to

Attendance = Opportunity to Learn

Attendance Data = Action Alert



High Number of Absences Are:

- Early warning sign of potential drop-outs
- Predictive of academic failure
- Indicator of student disengagement and struggling schools
- Financial issue for school and community

Impact of Absences

Each day of absence in ninth grade is associated with a dramatically reduced likelihood of graduating.

0-4 – days out	– 87% chance of graduating
5-9 – days out	– 63% chance of graduating
10-14 – days out	– 41% chance of graduating
15-19 – days out	– 21% chance of graduating
20-24 – days out	– 9 %chance of graduating
25-29 – days out	– 5% chance of graduating
30-34 – days out	– 2% chance of graduating
35-40 – days out	– 1% chance of graduating

Student Absences

3,300 Minutes

of

Direct Instruction

X

2

6,600 Minutes

55 Hours

of

Direct Instruction

X

2

110 Hours

Exercise



What are some reasons students are absent?

What are some reasons teachers are absent?

What are your top three reasons? Circle & Number them!

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

WHAT IS IT?



Chronic Absenteeism Defined

Chronic absenteeism is typically defined as missing 10 percent or more of a school year - approximately 18 days a year, or just two days every month

SEPTEMBER					OCTOBER					NOVEMBER					DECEMBER					JANUARY				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F
							X																	X
X	X	X						X							X									
					X										X									
										X														
												X												

FEBRUARY					MARCH					APRIL					MAY					JUNE				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F
X										X							X			X				X
		X		X									X											
							X	X							X									

Average Daily Attendance vs Chronic Absenteeism

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

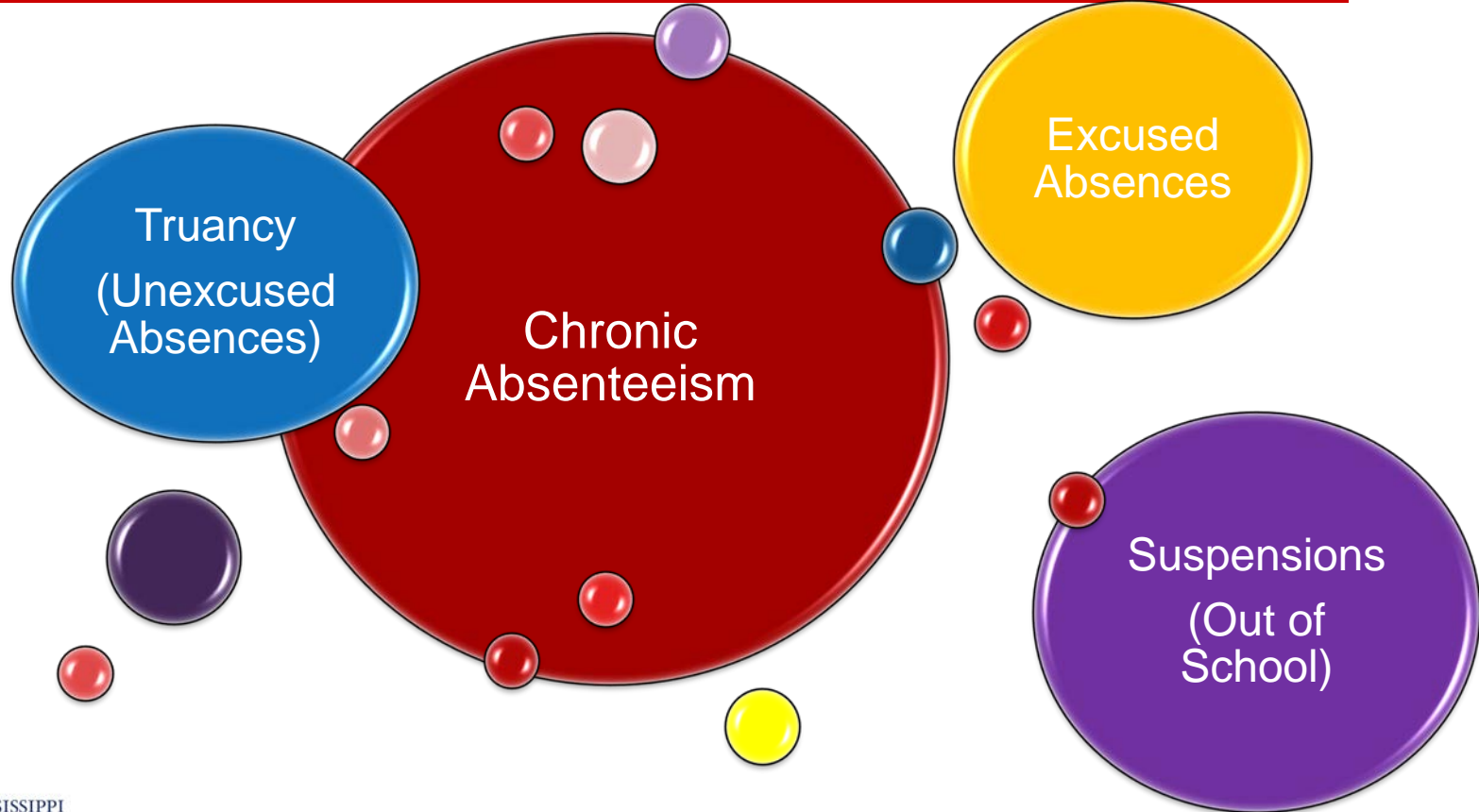
The percent of enrolled students who attend school each day. While the average daily attendance rate has been used for reporting purposes for many years, the use of a single average measure tends to mask significant attendance problems.

Masking Chronic Absenteeism

Chronic Absences are easily **masked** if consecutive days are the only days monitored.

September					October					November					December					January				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F
													X				X							
							X				X													
		X	X					X				X			X	X				X	X	X		
February					March					April					May					June				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F
				X						X														
X	X													X		X				X	X			
								X				X												

Chronic Absenteeism



Chronic Absenteeism vs Compulsory School Attendance

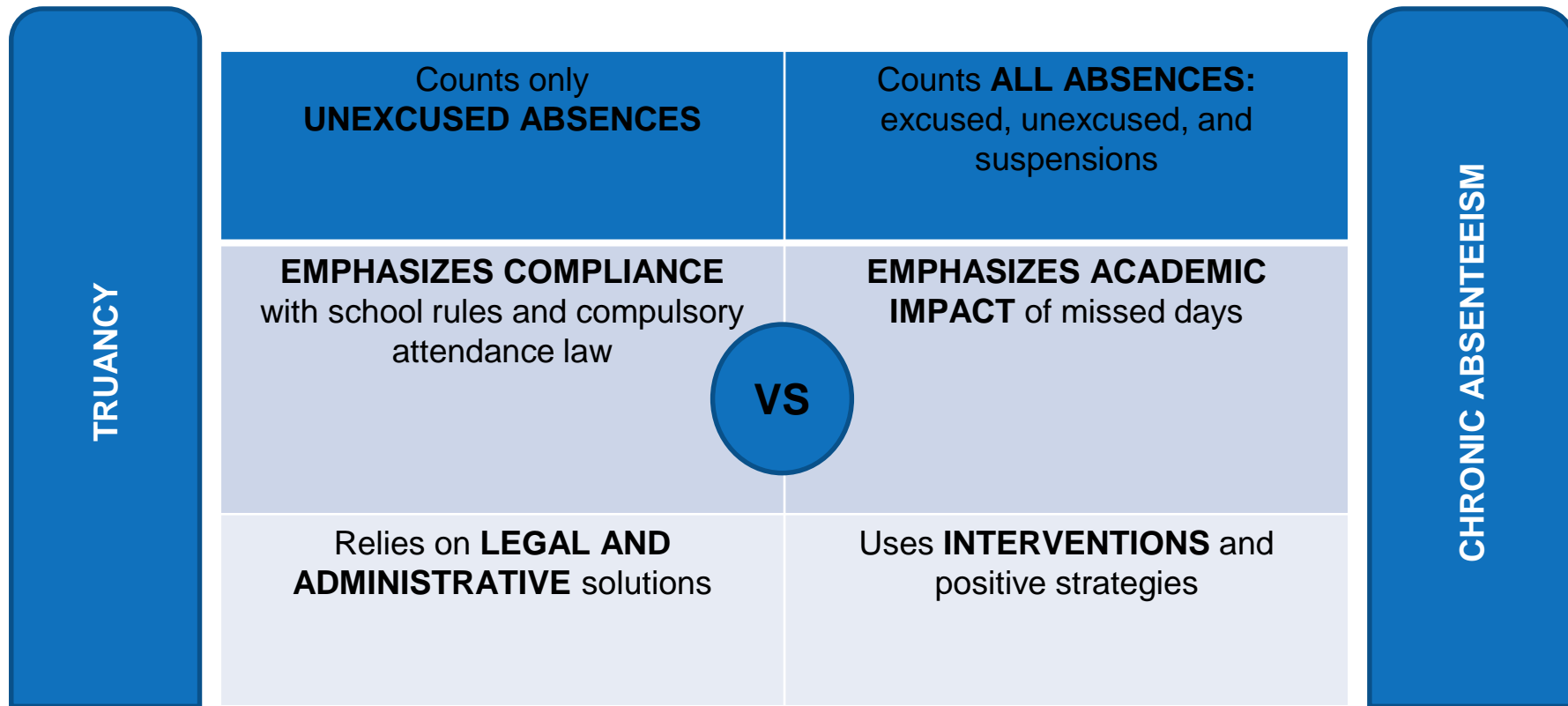
Chronic Absenteeism

- Incorporates all absences: excused, unexcused and suspensions of **ALL** enrolled students regardless of age.

Compulsory Attendance

- The law that mandates any **minor between the ages of 6 -17 (age 5 if enrolled in a full-day kindergarten program)** to be enrolled in a private, public or home school.

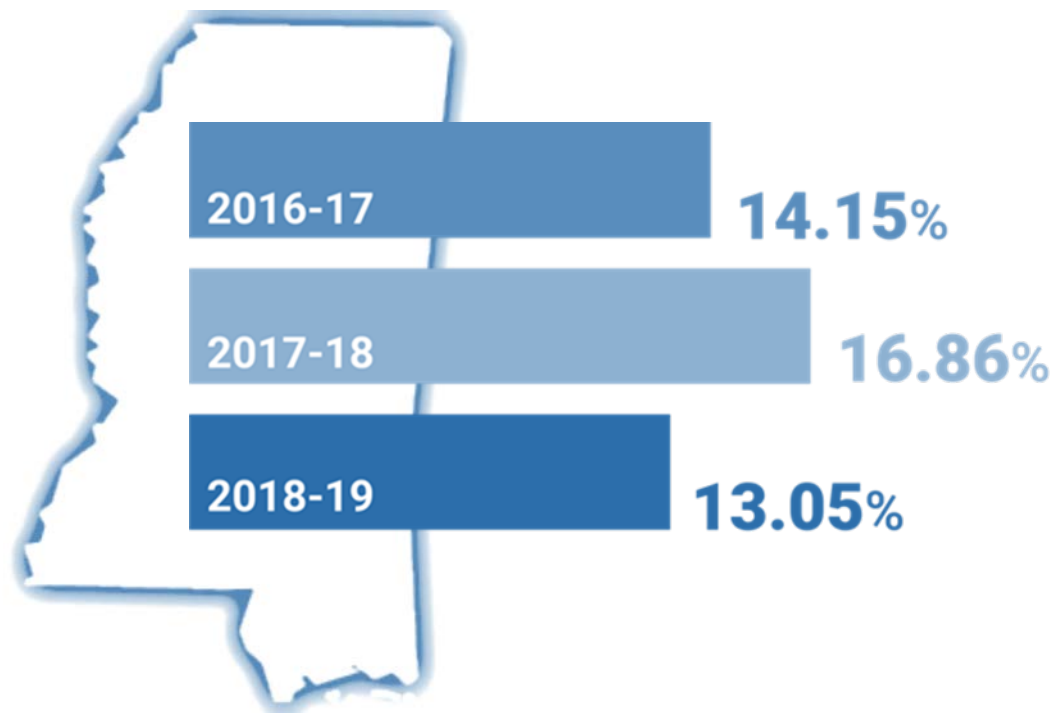
Truancy vs Chronic Absenteeism



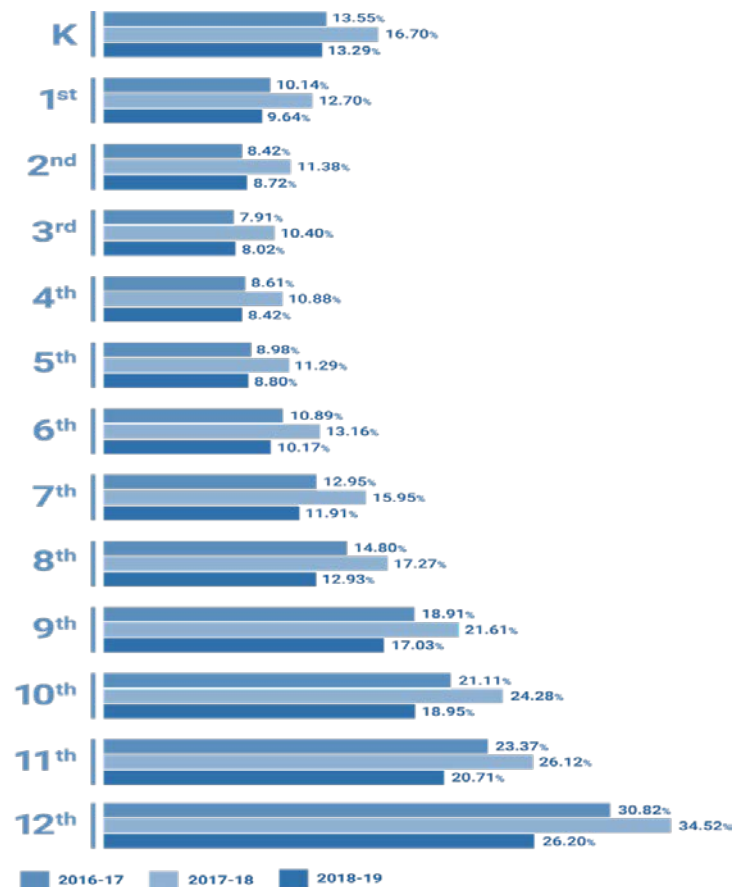
Call for Change

- Decrease the number of students identified as missing 10% or more of days from school during an academic school year.
- Acknowledge and address health-related challenges that impede positive academic outcomes for students.
- Provide parents with the needed resources that will aid them in fulfilling their critical role as brain builder, first teacher, tutor, strongest advocate, and best coach.

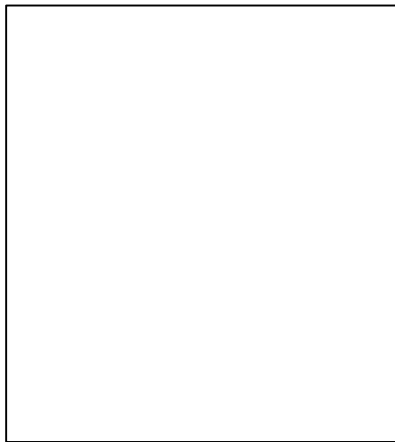
Mississippi Data



Rates by Grade



Implementation of State Chronic Absenteeism Report to be issued yearly.



https://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/Offices/MDE/OEA/OPR/2019/chronic_absenteeism_report_2019-final_003.pdf

Resources

- Utilize [attendanceworks.org](https://www.attendanceworks.org) for ideas and tools such as the Attendance Activities School Year Planning Tool
- <https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/year-long-planning/>
- <https://www.attendanceworks.org/>

“Breakfast at the Bus Stop” Initiative

- Provides students with a free breakfast three (3) times a year at the bus stop-two within an Oxford Housing Authority community and the other in an area of the city with a high chronic absenteeism rate.
- Provides an opportunity to motivate and encourage students to attend school every day.
- Provides an opportunity to build and/or enhance relationships with students, parents, and community.

Community Resources



Laundry Love

You could provide a service of love (distribute quarters, refreshments, create conversations, assist with laundry, give away library cards and books).



Laundry Love

- Think about how you will create conversations. Think through questions you can ask and be ready to listen to their stories.
- The goal is to create relationships, begin conversations, demonstrate love and follow up.
- Take laundry detergent.



“We Were Here” Celebration

- Conduct celebrations at each elementary school.
- Award classes with good attendance.
- Disseminate information regarding the importance of attending school every day through various media outlets (i.e. radio, Facebook, Instagram).



- Distribute information about the importance of school attendance around your communities, i.e. pediatrician's office, barber shops and grocery stores
- Make flyers with your school's attendance policy and distribute at Open House Nights or any other community related event

- Distribute flyers that explain school wellness policies



- Have community health providers speak to parents and students at various community events

Missing unnecessary school days often happens before and after the winter holidays, as families try to squeeze a few more days out of the vacation season. At the same time, results of a parent survey suggest that families would be willing to shorten vacations if they believe the absences are affecting academic success. Utilize holiday messaging to bring awareness to parents.

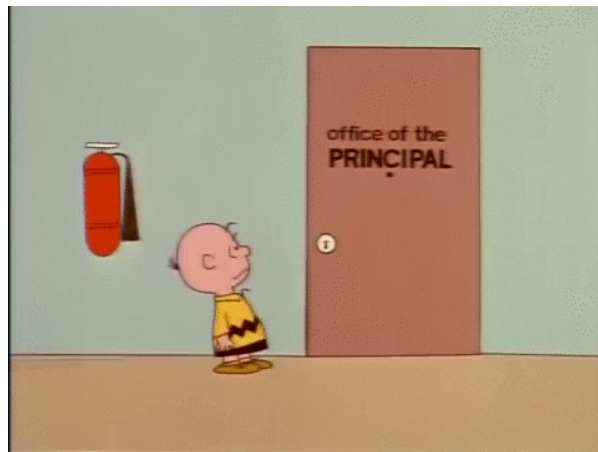




IMPACTING STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Suspension

Suspension (also known as temporary exclusion) is a mandatory leave assigned to a student as a form of punishment that can last anywhere from one day to ten days, during which time the student is not allowed to attend regular school lessons.



Questions to Consider Prior to Suspensions

- Can the suspensions be managed within the school?
- Where and how can the suspension be supervised in the school?
- Has an individual behavior plan been developed for repeat offenders?
- What steps can be taken to ensure that academics are not compromised during the suspension?

In- School Suspension

A temporary change in placement from the regular classroom setting to a special classroom monitored by a district employee.



Top Behavior Concerns In Your District



- Good gardeners and farmers know what it takes to make plants flourish.
- They don't blame the plants when those plants don't grow.
- Instead, they examine the soil, sun, water, and nutrients they provide.

A student's decision to attend school and engage learning opportunities with his/her best effort has everything to do with the quality of the learning environment

Decreasing Student Behavior-What Works?

- Focus on students' self-efficacy, not their self-esteem.
- Provide regular experiences wherein students achieve success after a challenge—"little wins"
- Show them their growth over time.
- Do whatever you can to reduce social comparison cues.
- Establish and sustain relationships.

Decreasing Student Behavior-What Works?

- **Defiance/Refusal to work** (give choice with consequences attached, provide make-up time, re-establish relationship).
- **Talking back/Arguing** (focus on root of the problem, avoid unnecessary power struggles, plan a follow-up).
- **Student won't engage/Complete work** (meet with student/family, address behavior privately, phone home, build a relationship, stop doing what doesn't work, use behavior contract, give the student a leadership role, positive reinforcement, positive body language).

Alternative Education Placement

Any compulsory-school-age child who has been suspended for more than ten (10) days or expelled from school, except for any student expelled for possession of a weapon or other felonious conduct.



Achieving Desired Behaviors

Set clear,
consistent
rules.

Expect the
best from
the child.

Say "yes"
whenever
possible
and
appropriate.

Show
interest in
the child's
activities.

Encourage
self-control
by providing
meaningful
choices.

Focus on
the desired
behavior,
rather than
the one to
be avoided.

Give clear
directions,
one at a
time

Help
children see
how their
actions
affect
others.

Helping Parents and District Staff

Five strategies parents and other caregivers can use to respond to child misbehavior. Rules should be fully explained and clearly understood before misbehavior occurs. Whenever possible, involve children in making the rules for the family or the classroom.

Strategy 1-Natural Consequences

- Allowing children to experience the consequences of their behavior is also called learning the hard way.
Example: Gena does not put her books back in her school bag after she finishes reading. One day she loses a book, and therefore must find a way to replace it.
- Only use natural consequences when they will not endanger the child's health or safety.

Strategy 2-Logical Consequences

- These are structured consequences that follow specific misbehaviors. The child should be able to see how the behavior and the consequence are directly related.

Example: Andrew, who is a teenager, knows that if he stays out past his curfew on a school night, his parents will not allow him to go out with his friends over the weekend.

Strategy 3-Fix-up

- If children damage something, they need to help fix it or clean it up. If they cause someone distress, they should help relieve it.

Example: "Now that you made your brother cry, please come apologize and help me soothe him."

Strategy 4-Time out

- During time out, children are required to spend time alone in a specific place that has few, if any, rewarding characteristics. This gives children a chance to reflect quietly on their behavior. Be calm and firm. One minute for each year of the child's age is appropriate.

Example: "Hannah, we have talked often about how hitting is not acceptable. But because you hit Jerry, please leave the playground and go to the Time Out Table for five minutes. Please think about how Jerry might have felt when you hit him."

Strategy 5-Redirection

- This strategy can work when you notice a child not following the rules and being uncooperative. Quickly get the child's attention and introduce another activity.

Example: "Tom, please help me water the flowers now. You've been riding the bike for a long time and now it's Lena's turn."

Behavioral Expectations

At Home	At School
watching TV on the weekend	watching an instructional video
at the dinner table	in the school lunch cafeteria
playing with neighborhood friends	interacting on the school playground or hanging out in the gym
going outside, to the mall, to the store, etc...	transition from one class to another or one subject to another
receiving instruction from a parent (take out the garbage and clean your room)	receiving instruction from a teacher (causes of the Civil War)

Course Performance



Course Performance

Course performance has been shown to be a better predictor of long-term success (both in secondary and post-secondary work) than test scores, GPA, and credit accrual. And importantly, like attendance, high achievement matters. It is essential for students to not receive F's, but it is as important that we push and support more students to receive A's and B's.

Adapted from Everyone Graduates

Course Performance

- Course performance is comprised of a wide variety of things ranging from assignment completion, preparation for tests and quizzes, prior preparation, and classwork.
- Students need support and sometimes even advocacy to succeed in their learning, as well as, tutoring, mentoring and other support programs.
- Schools should offer effective second chance and credit recovery programs which hold students accountable but provide a reason for them to keep trying.

What Do You Know-Course Performance

- Is there a district or school homework policy?
- What is the policy on late homework?
- What are the graduation requirements?
- What are the diploma options?

What Do You Know-Course Performance

- What are the requirements for dual enrollment?
- What is the Literacy-Based Promotion Act?
- Are there Subject Support Resources?
- When are reports of progress disseminated?
- What is the purpose of parent-teacher conferences?

REACHING OUT TO PARENTS

Focus on
the child

Avoid
touching or
being
overly
familiar
with
parents
who don't
know you

Never
assume
parents
don't care
about their
children.

Be positive

Emphasize
their child's
strengths

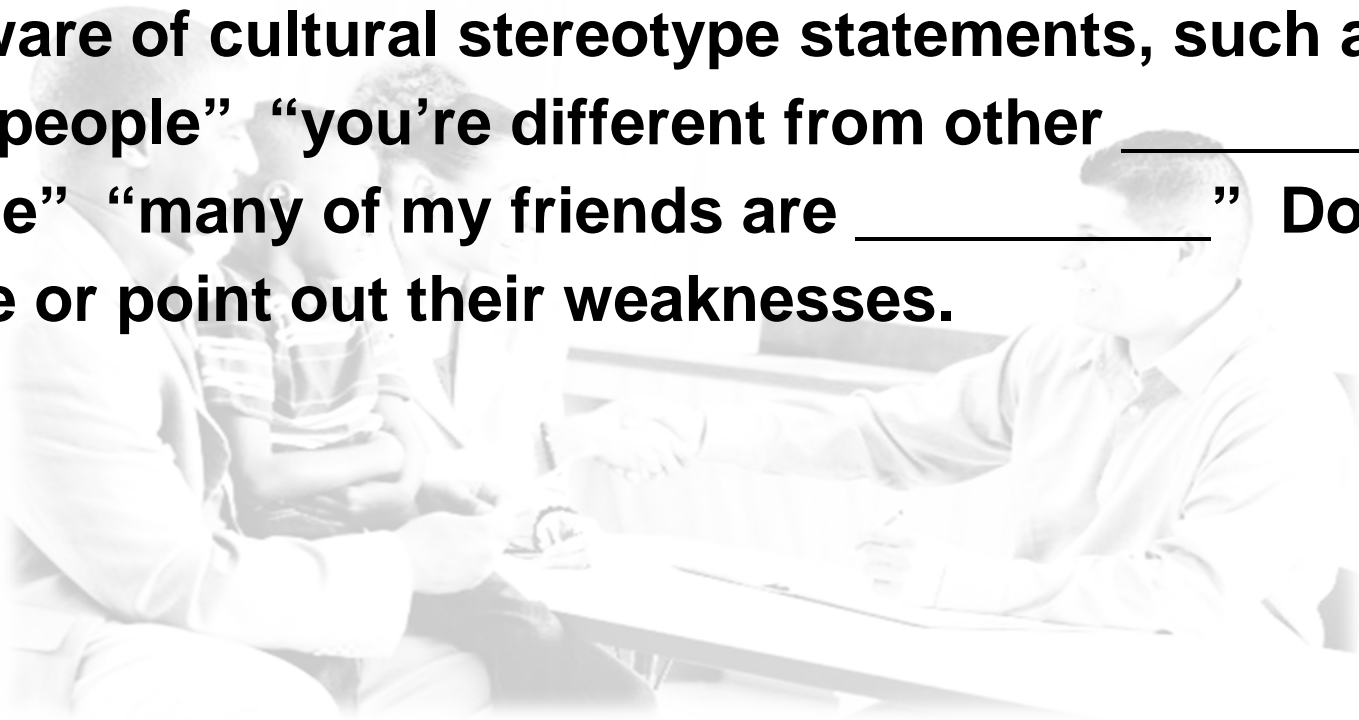
Don't talk
down to
parents

Be sincere

- Don't talk over their heads
- Watch the jargon
- Don't criticize their parenting skills

Reaching Out To Parents

**Be aware of cultural stereotype statements, such as:
“you people” “you’re different from other _____
people” “many of my friends are _____” Don’t
blame or point out their weaknesses.**



Reaching Out to Parents

- Do not discuss other students with families.

Example: “The fight between Johnny and Scott..... simply say- “The fight that occurred.....”



Family Education Rights to Privacy Act

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (*FERPA*) is a federal privacy law that gives parents certain protections regarding their children's education records, such as report cards, transcripts, disciplinary records, contact and family information, and class schedules.

- Attendanceworks.org
- Parent Read-at-Home Plan
http://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/documents/OAE/Literacy/ResourcesForParents/parent-read-at-home-plan_mde_lbpa.pdf
- Family Guides for Student
<http://www.mdek12.org/OAE/OEER/FamilyGuidesEnglish>

Questions & Closing Thoughts

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