

Accountable for Attendance

Addressing Chronic Student Absence In Your Local Control and Accountability Plan

A brief by Attendance Works and Children Now
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New Brief

The passage of the Local Control Funding Formula in June 2013 requires for the first time that school districts throughout California monitor and address chronic absence as part of new Local Control and Accountability Plan. A student who is chronically absent has missed 10% or more of school days for any reason, including unexcused or excused absences and suspensions, over an academic year.

Research demonstrates that chronic absence — at any age — is a red flag that a student is at risk academically and, if the problem is left unaddressed, will drop out of high school. It's also a problem that can be turned around when schools, districts, community agencies and families work together to monitor the data, identify and remove barriers for getting students to class and nurture a habit of regular attendance.

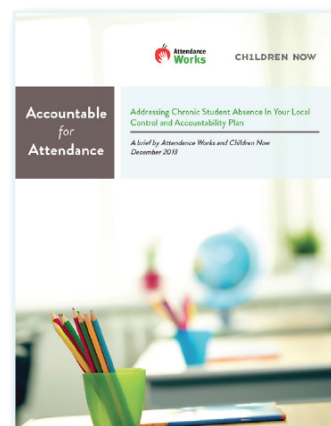
This brief is intended to support school boards and districts, county offices of education, parents and other community partners in the development of these unique local plans, particularly as they relate to improving attendance and reducing chronic absence.

Districts, county offices of education and community partners can take these key steps to support development of strong local plans that reduce chronic absence:

- 1. Gather Data:** Determine the extent to which chronic absence is a problem district-wide for particular schools, grades and student populations
- 2. Ask Why:** Find out why students are missing school and identify common barriers to student attendance
- 3. Build Capacity:** Use training and professional development to deepen understanding of effective tools and practices for improving attendance
- 4. Engage Stakeholders:** Engage internal and external stakeholders in reviewing the data and identifying solutions that leverage effective local practices and resources
- 5. Set Targets:** Develop annual goals, specific actions and budgets for inclusion in the local plan

For an interactive version of this toolkit, visit:

<http://www.attendanceworks.org/policy-advocacy/state-reports/california/>



Attendance Works is a national and state initiative that promotes awareness of the important role that school attendance plays in achieving academic success. Based in San Francisco, Attendance Works is supporting several California districts as they track chronic absence data and intervene with students and schools.

CHILDREN NOW

Children Now is the leading, nonpartisan, umbrella research, policy development, and advocacy organization dedicated to promoting children's health and education in California and creating national media policies that support child development. The organization also leads The Children's Movement of California.