





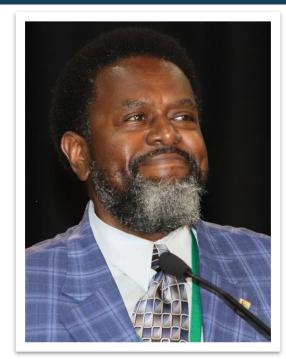
# Creating a Culture of Belonging and Engagement: Principals in Action

Attendance Awareness Campaign 2024 - Webinar 3 of 4

August 7, 2024 www.attendanceworks.org



### Welcome!



S. Kwesi Rollins

Senior Vice President for Leadership & Engagement
Institute for Educational Leadership
Chair, Advisory Board, Attendance Works



Hedy N. Chang
Executive Director
Attendance Works



## **About the Institute for Educational Leadership**

IEL acts as a catalyst and capacity builder at the intersection of education, community collaboration and workforce development to effectively promote equity and better opportunities for all children and youth. IEL:

- √ identifies and implements innovative strategies particularly where educational, economic and social challenges or gaps exist.
- √ has developed, trained and supported thousands of leaders across various networks.
- ✓ works at the local, state and national level, investing in community leaders of all ages, stages and sectors.

To learn more visit: www.iel.org



Innovation. Equity. Leadership.

# About Attendance Works

Attendance Works advances student success and closes equity gaps by reducing chronic absence. Operating at the local, state, and national level, Attendance Works:

- √ Advances better policy
- ✓ Nurtures proven and promising practice
- ✓ Promotes meaningful and effective communication
- √ Catalyzes needed research

Since our launch in 2010, we have become the nation's "go-to" resource for improving student attendance. To learn more, visit our website: <a href="www.attendanceworks.org">www.attendanceworks.org</a>



## **Agenda**

#### I. Welcome

#### II. Attendance Awareness Campaign and Key Concepts

Kwesi Rollins, Senior Vice President for Leadership & Engagement, IEL Hedy Chang, Executive Director, Attendance Works

#### III. The Role of Principals

- ❖ John Dixon, Principal, Glenfair Elementary School, Oregon
- \* Kerri L. Reed, Principal, Grand Rapids Montessori Academy, Michigan
- \* Monica Murray, Principal, John Marshall High School, Virginia

#### IV. Back to School Health Resources

❖ Dr. Elliott Attisha, Senior Fellow for Health, Attendance Works

#### **V. Closing Reflections & Resources**



# Convening Partners AAC 2024!





















## Welcome our new AAC State Partner!

## Massachusetts Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MASSACHUSETTS

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®





## Slogan for 2024!

## Be Present, Be Powerful!







## Attendance Awareness Campaign 2024 Webinar Series

Register here: <a href="https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/webinars/">https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/webinars/</a>

**Note:** Each session is accompanied by a discussion guide that can be used for webinar parties.

Webinar I On the Front Line of Attendance and Engagement: The Crucial Role of Teachers Wednesday, April 3, I2pm-I:30pm PT / 3pm-4:30 pm ET (recording available)

Webinar 2 Essential Partnerships for Showing Up to School: Families, Youth and Community Wednesday, May 15, 12pm-1:30pm PT / 3pm-4:30 pm ET (recording available)

Webinar 3 Creating a Culture of Belonging and Engagement: Principals in Action Wednesday, August 7, 12pm-1:30pm PT / 3pm-4:30 pm ET Today!

Webinar 4 Leadership for Sustainability: Superintendents Making a Difference Wednesday, September 25, 12pm-1:30pm PT / 3pm-4:30 pm ET



9

## 2024 Theme: Be Present, Be Powerful!

## **Selected Key Messages**

- \* Ensuring students get to school provides opportunities for them to progress academically, develop socially and reach for their dreams.
- Building trusting relationships that promote belonging is critical for improving student attendance.
- Supporting the health and well-being of students, families and school staff improves attendance.
- An all-hands-on-deck, positive, problem-solving approach driven by data will improve attendance.





## Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors for this Webinar!



**Kaiser Permanente** Thriving Schools brings together extensive health care expertise and partnerships with nationally recognized and trusted organizations to support schools in becoming a beacon of health in their community.

## **SCHOLASTIC**

Scholastic is the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books, a leading provider of literacy curriculum, professional services, and classroom magazines, and a producer of educational and entertaining children's media.



**School Technology,** exclusive partner of Skyward, provides a range of integrated hardware and software solutions to save staff time and improve data quality. From student attendance to employee time tracking, their solutions help streamline data collection so schools can focus on the bigger issues.





### **Support Attendance Works**



We rely on contributors like you to help us keep Attendance Works resources free for everyone.

Join our movement and donate today!

DONATE



## **Defining Terms**

## Average Daily Attendance (ADA)

- School level measure (not student level)
- Notices aggregate attendance at certain point in time (e.g., half-days, holidays, bad weather)
- Masks individual student chronic absences

### **Truancy**

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

### **Chronic Absence**

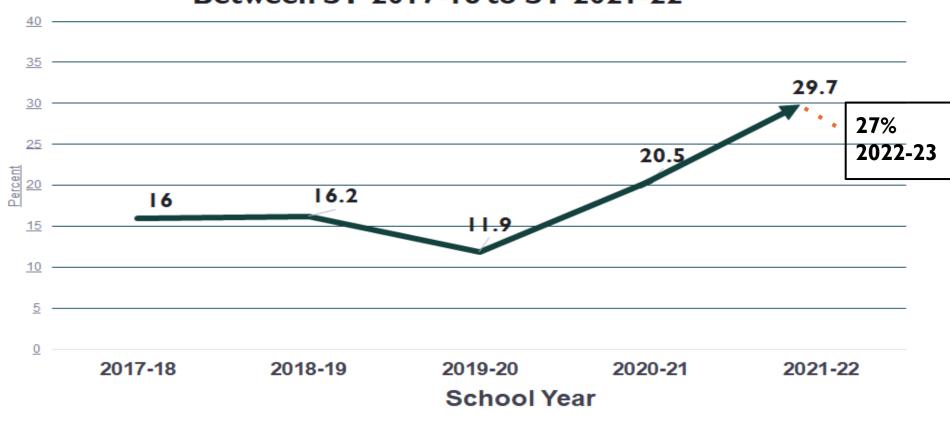
- Missing 10% counts ALL absences (excused, unexcused, & suspensions)
- Emphasizes impact of missed days and the benefits of being present
- Uses preventative, problem-solving, traumasensitive strategies
- Cultivates family and student engagement



13

### **National Chronic Absence Crisis**

# Percentage of Students Chronically Absent Nearly Doubled Nationwide Between SY 2017-18 to SY 2021-22

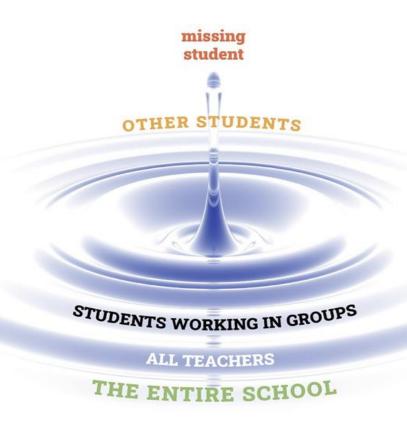


- √ The number of chronically absent students grew from 8,095,132 to 14,660,261.
- √ State data from 2022–23 indicate rates remain high.





## When a Student Misses School, the Impact Ripples



66% of students attend a school with 20% or more chronic absenteeism (SY 2021-22) versus
25% prior to the pandemic



### High levels of absence reflect an erosion in positive conditions for learning







## The key to reducing chronic absence is finding out and addressing what causes students to miss too much school

#### **Barriers**

- Chronic and acute illness
- Family responsibilities or home situation
- Trauma
- Poor transportation
- Housing and food insecurity
- Inequitable access to needed services (including health)
- System involvement
- Lack of predictable schedules for learning
- Lack of access to technology
- Community violence

#### **Aversion**

- Struggling academically and/or behaviorally
- Unwelcoming school climate
- Social and peer challenges
- Anxiety
- Biased disciplinary and suspension practices
- Undiagnosed disability and/or lack of disability accommodations
- Caregivers 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
- Need to work conflicts with 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
- Assume students must stay home for any symptom of illness
- Attendance only matters in the older grades
- Suspensions don't count as absence

https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/addressing-chronic-absence/3-tiers-of-intervention/root-causes/ www.attendanceworks.org

17

### **Qualitative Data Tools**

Gather information about why students do or don't attend school

- ☐ Scan of Environment and Attendance Tool (SEAT): Identify strengths and opportunities to promote positive school culture and strong attendance
- ☐ Empathy Interviews: Targeted, one-on-one conversations with a small group of students
- **⊇ 2x10:** Relationship and trust building strategy; spend two minutes per day for 10 days talking with a student
- ☐ Student Focus Groups: Moderated small group discussions to explore experiences and perspectives
- ☐ Attendance Café: Engage parents in discussions about attendance
- ☐ Student and Parent Surveys: Ask about reasons behind their absences

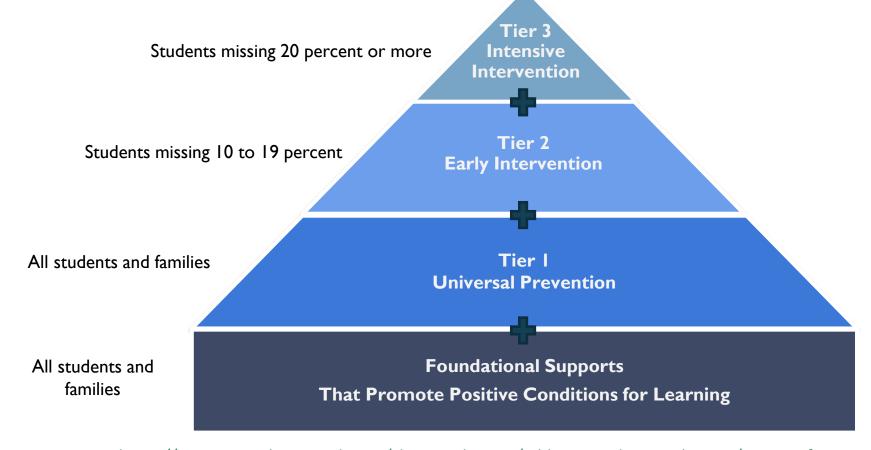


https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/qualitative-data/





# Multi-tiered support systems that begin with prevention are essential



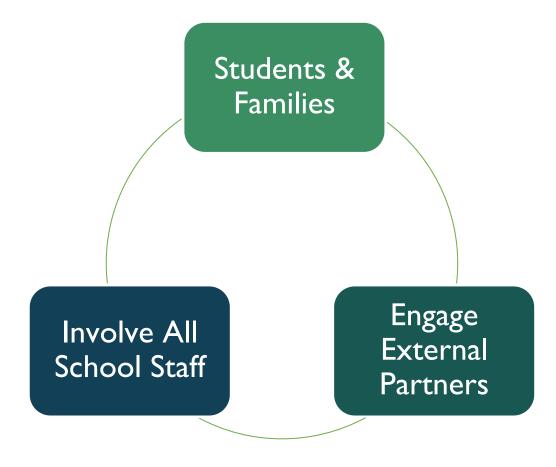


https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/addressing-chronic-absence/3-tiers-of-intervention/

www.attendanceworks.org

19

## Mobilize the School Community to Address Attendance





## **Align Partners and Interventions to Reasons for Absences**

Reason for Absence

#### **Possible Interventions**

#### **Potential Partner**

**Anxiety** 

- Enlist trusted messengers to talk with families about health and safety
- Meet with school counselor, social worker or psychologist
- Offer small groups to teach calming skills

Local pediatricians
Promotoras (community health workers)

NAMI – online courses

**Disengaged** 

- Assign a peer group mentor
- Create an individualized learning plan
- Explore afterschool options (art, music, STEM, etc.)
- Offer alternatives for credit recovery

**MENTOR** 

Parks & Rec program Boys & Girls Club

Health

- Messaging on how to stay health
- School nurse educates on preventing spread of illness
- Ensure hygiene supplies available (soap, tissues, hand sanitizer)
- Onsite flu and Covid shots

School-based health center Local Clinic / Pediatrician

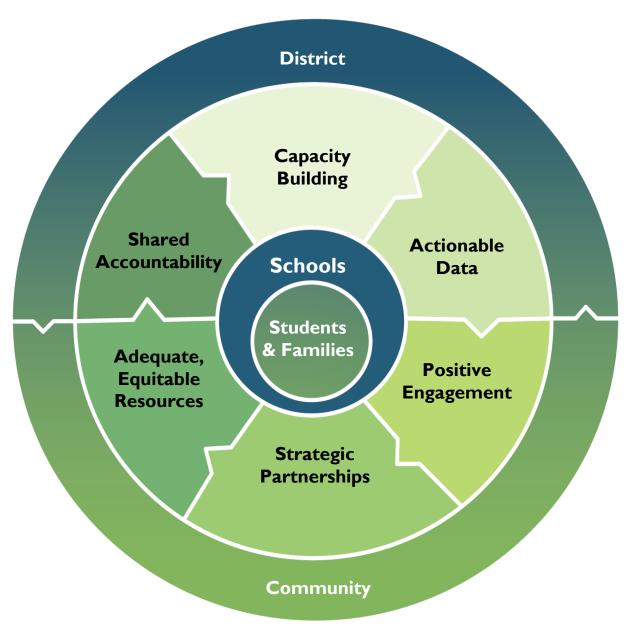
Transportation Barriers

- Walking School Bus
- Free municipal bus passes
- Carpools

Parents
AmeriCorps program
City government



## **Key Ingredients for Improving Attendance**

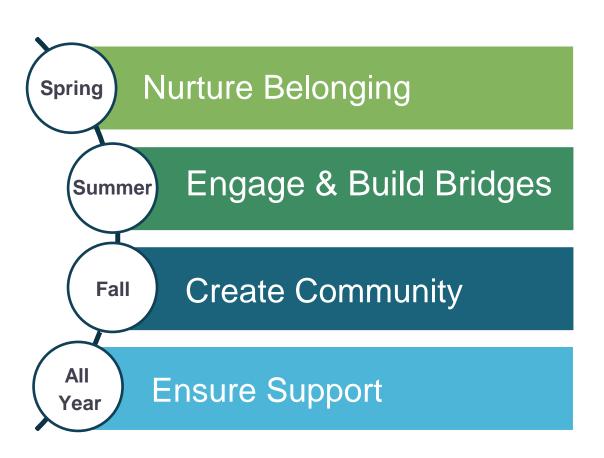




## **Taking A Year Long Approach**

### **Recommended Steps:**

- 1. Convene your team
- 2. Review data & identify priority students and groups
- 3. Craft and implement strategies
- 4. Reflect, learn & improve





## **Panelists**



John Dixon
Principal
Glenfair Elementary School

Oregon



Kerri L. Reed
Principal
Grand Rapids Montessori Academy

Michigan



Monica Murray Principal John Marshall High School

Virginia



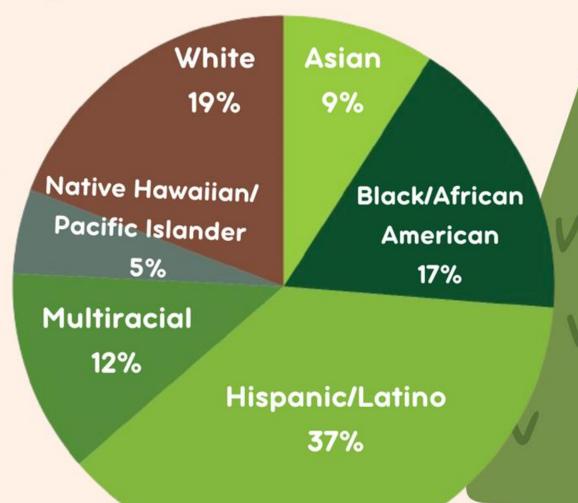
Tell us about your school demographics. What is your chronic absence data? What is one major lesson learned about what is needed to improve attendance?





# Demographics

- 100% Free & Reduced Lunch (Title I)
- 43% English Learners
- 14% Special Education
- 31 Languages Spoken
- 37% Mobility Rate Last Year





## Chronic Absence Rates

2018-19

2022-23

2023-24

6%

18%

13%

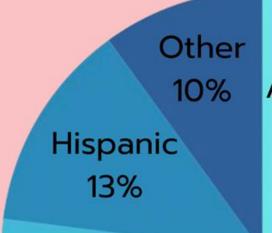
## 2023-24 Demographics



- 388 students enrolled (PK-6th Grade)
- · 3% English Learners
- 10% Special Education
- · 61% Economically

Disadvantaged





African American 12%

White 65%



\*part of a larger PK-12 magnet school

## Chronic Absence Rates (2021-2024)











## Demographics

623 kids

Grade 9-12th

65.8% Economically Disadvantaged

23.8% students with disabilities

Latino/

Hispanic

5.1%

White

13.8%

African American

76.2%





## CHRONIC ABSENCE RATES

2018-19:

33%

2021-22:

24%

2022-23:

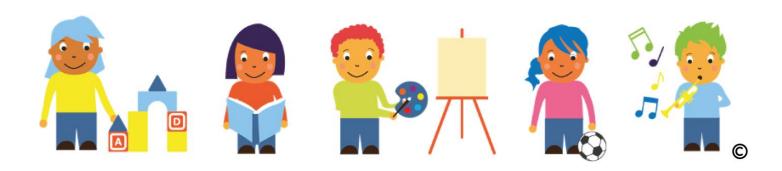
24%

2023-24:

22%



# In the coming school year, what are your top strategies for reducing chronic absence?



## Top Strategies for Reducing Chronic Absence



- Identify student goals, to ensure they are engaged and in charge of their own learning
- Social Emotional Learning strategies to help students see themselves as part of a greater community
- Find ways to make sure school is more engaging and FUN! (e.g. Playworks)



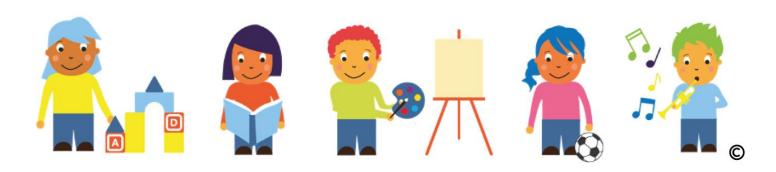
- ➤ Use mentorship to connect with students and making sure every student has something that makes them want to come to school
- Move away from "perfect attendance" incentives and engaging students to find out what incentives they want to see
- > Take a team approach



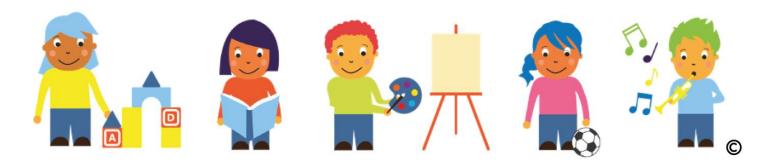
- Connect students to an extracurricular activity or club
- Identify alternative options for students working postpandemic
- ➤ Connect to attendance to graduation goals (e.g. early graduation)
- Message to staff is everyone is responsible for building connections with students (team tracks this data)



# As a site leader, what are you doing to lay the groundwork for success as you enter the new school year?



# How does ensuring students stay healthy and avoid unnecessary health-related absences fit with your efforts?



## **Panelists**



Elliott Attisha, DO FAAP

Senior Fellow for Health

Attendance Works



36

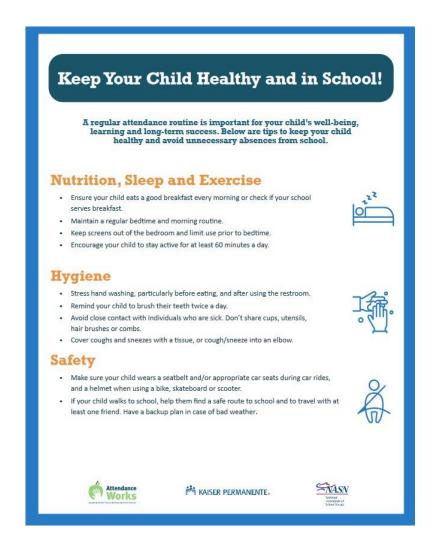
# Nutrition, Sleep and Exercise



- Are more likely to attend school
- Are better able to focus and stay engaged
- Are more likely to be ready to learn



## **Help Kids Stay Healthy!**

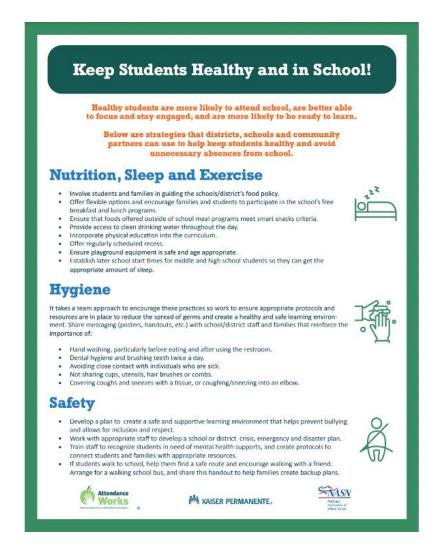


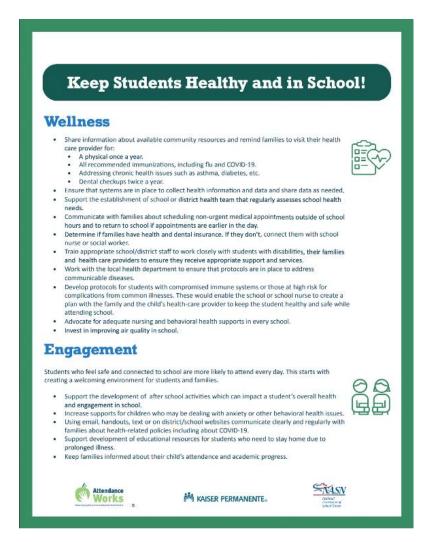


https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/health-handouts-for-families/



## **Health Guidance for Going to School**

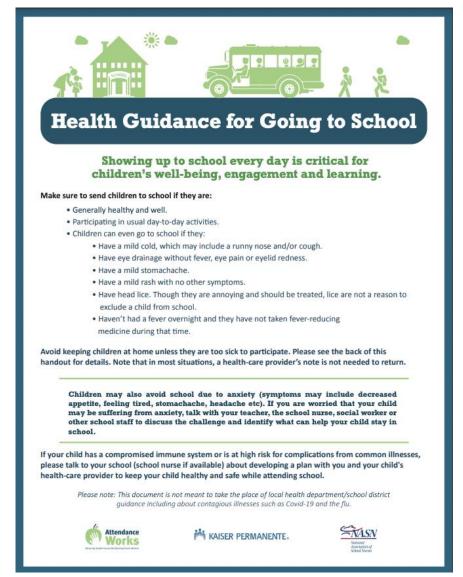




https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/health-handouts-for-families/



## Health Guidance for Going to School



## Reasons to keep me home from school and what needs to happen before I can return

What is my symptom?	When should I stay home and when to seek medical care?	When can I return to school?	
Fever	I have a fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher. Seek medical care if I have fever and any of the following: ear pain, sore throat, rash, stomachache, headache or tooth pain.	If I have not had a fever overnight without the use of fever-reducing medication and I am feeling better.  If I did not vomit overnight and I am able to drink liquids without throwing up. If my diarrhea has improved.  Once I am feeling better and I have been cleared for return by my health-care provider. If my symptoms were due to asthma, please make sure that I have permission to use breathing medication at school.	
Vomiting and/or diarrhea	If I have vomited 2 or more times in the last 24 hours. If my stool is watery and I may not make it to the toilet in time. <b>Seek medical care</b> if I have stomach cramping and fever, I have bloody or black stool, or I am showing signs of dehydration (tired and sleepy, dry mouth and not urinating at least once in the last 8 hours).		
Persistent cough or trouble breathing	Seek medical care if I have a persistent cough, difficulty breathing or trouble catching my breath or if I develop a fever with the cough. These symptoms may be signs of Covid-19 or flu and should be evaluated by a health-care provider.		
Rash	Seek medical care if the rash has blisters, is draining, is painful, looks like bruises and/or if I develop a fever.	Rash has healed or I have been cleared for return by my health-care provider.	
Eye irritation	Seek medical care if I have eye swelling, eye pain, trouble seeing or an eye injury.	Once I am feeling better.	
Sore throat	Seek medical care if I have drooling, trouble swallowing or a fever and/or rash.	Once I am feeling better. If I was prescribed an antibiotic by my health-care provider, then I can return 12 hours after the first dose, if I am without fever and I am feeling better.	

https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/health-handouts-for-families/



www.attendanceworks.org

KAISER PERMANENTE.

# Just Released!

Tip sheet to help families/caregivers decide when a child can go to school or should stay home.

### When is sick too sick for school?

A regular attendance routine is important for your child's well-being and learning.

These tips can help you decide when to keep your child home when they don't feel well.



### Send me to school if

- I have a runny nose or just a little cough, but no other symptoms.
- I haven't had a fever overnight and haven't taken fever reducing medicine during that time.
- I have a mild stomach ache.
- I haven't thrown up overnight and can drink liquids without throwing up.
- I have a mild rash and no other symptoms.
- I have eye drainage without fever, eye pain or eyelid redness.



### Keep me at home if

- . I have a temperature higher than 100.4
- · I have thrown up two or more times in the past 24 hours.
- My stool is watery and I may not make it to the bathroom in time.



### Seek medical care if

- I have a temperature higher than 100.4 and any of the following: ear pain, sore throat, rash, stomachache, headache or tooth pain.
- I have stomach pain and fever, I have bloody or black stool, or I am dehydrated (tired and sleepy, dry mouth) and/or I have not urinated in the last 8 hours.
- I have a persistent cough or trouble breathing, or have a fever with the cough.
- I have eye swelling, eye pain or an eye injury.
- I have a rash that has blisters, is draining, is painful, looks like bruises, and/or I have a fever with the rash.

If you don't know whether to send your child to school, have specific concerns regarding your child's physical or mental health, or are worried your child will spread illness, contact your child's health care provider, a local urgent care or the school nurse.

Please note: These tips are not meant to take the place of local health department/school district health guidance including about contagious illnesses such as Covid-19 and the flu.

Find tips about how to keep your child healthy and in school on the Attendance Works website: https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/health-handouts-for-families/













## Parent Handout on Anxiety

# This new, 2-page handout provides answers to key questions:

- What are the symptoms?
- When does anxiety become a problem?
- What can families do to support their child?
- How can schools and health providers help?
- Where can I find additional information?





# Is your child missing school due to anxiety?

Definition of anxiety: Feeling of fear and uneasiness about everyday situations.

If your child is suffering from anxiety, you are not alone. The good news is that in most situations, anxiety is normal and temporary. Anxiety becomes a concern if it persists - it can impact relationships with family, peers and teachers, contribute to academic challenges, and lead to school avoidance/refusal. Addressing anxiety is important for a child's overall well-being, not just attendance.

In addition, if your child starts to complain of symptoms like a headache or stomach ache, it is important to *quickly determine* if this is related to anxiety or a physical illness which might require missing school. If the challenge is anxiety, then staying home may worsen the situation.



### What are the symptoms of anxiety?

### Persistent anxiety can present in many ways, making it difficult to recognize.

Symptoms may vary depending on the age of the child, and some children may keep worries to themselves or have difficulty explaining their feelings making it hard to identify symptoms. Anxiety symptoms can include, but aren't limited to, the following:

- Feeling tired, irritable or easily tearful
- Having trouble separating from parents
- · Difficulty sleeping or frequent nightmares
- Trouble getting out of bed or dressed for school
- Lack of appetite
- Trouble concentrating which may lead to difficulty starting tasks, problems with homework and falling behind in school
- Physical symptoms, including stomachaches and headaches
- · Avoiding activities they previously enjoyed
- Negative or continuous thoughts that something bad is going to happen

Attendance Works ©

https://www.attendanceworks.org/take-action/community-and-agency-partners/health-care-providers/



# Considerations for promoting health guidance

- Include this information in back-to-school packets
- Use technology (robocalls, text, student information system applications, etc) and awareness campaigns to reinforce the messaging
- Take time to share and discuss this information with staff during staff meetings
- Use these materials to catalyze a conversation with your local health department about whether updates might be needed for local guidance



# Q & A



# John Marshall High School

SELECT DATE 5/28/2024

July

0

January

89.55%

August

92.97%

February

89.10%



October

91.53%

April

88.53%

Year to Date **Attendance Rate** 

91.12%

December

91.53%

June

November

90.73%

May

95.08%



School Day Current School Day Number 5/31/2024 176

Dasca on Canton Day		
Chronic Students	No Show Count	
185	4	
Active Chronic Rate	W9 Count	
30.38%	10	

**Rased on Current Day** 

Students	Count		
185	4		
Active Chronic Rate	W9 Count		
30.38%	10		

Year to Date				
Average Daily	<18 Abs	Average		
Absences	424	Membership		
56.83	=18 & <36 Abs	606		
Total	125	Membership		
Outreach	>=18 Abs	Change		
1445	60	80		

Day:	0
Week:	0
YTD:	1445
YTD:	1445
Weekly	Attendand
Weekly	Attendan

School Day on

Selected Date:

**Outreach on Selected Day** 

Data	ata Monday	Tuesday Wednesda	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekly
Date:	5/27/2024	5/28/2024	5/29/2024	5/30/2024	5/31/2024	Average
Rate:		96.89%	96.56%	96.72%	96.72%	96.72%
Absences:		19	21	20	20	20.00
Excused:		16	21	19	18	18.50
Unexcused:		3	0	1	2	1.50
Membership:		610	610	610	609	609.75

September

92.12%

March

90.07%

this doesn't account for reductions that occur from the seat time recovery data



### **AAC 2024 Proclamation!**



Mayors and other elected leaders, school boards and superintendents can signal the importance of school attendance by declaring that **September** is **Attendance Awareness Month**.

The Proclamation template for the 2024 has been updated!

Find it here: <a href="https://awareness.attendanceworks.org/resources/proclamations-2024/">https://awareness.attendanceworks.org/resources/proclamations-2024/</a>





# PROMOTE THE CAMPAIGN

- ✓ Download our free social media materials and share with local districts
- √ Join our listserv: 44,000+ members

Attendance Awareness Campaign 2024

www.attendanceworks.org

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keep up on New Messaging & Resources to Stay connected & Learning Today!

Learn More

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47



## 2024 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 Early Summer Spring **Getting into specifics** Late Summer Distribute talking points

- Let's get started! Convene coalition
- Recruit partners
- Meet with district
- Enlist health care providers
- Launch poster contests and other marketing campaigns
- Line up incentives

Analyze data



Enlist elected officials & celebs

### 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 Spread the word!
- Host press conferences
- Share data



https://awareness.attendanceworks.org/





# Opportunities to Promote AAC 2024!



http://awareness.attendanceworks.org/

✓ Like us on Facebook



- √ Tweet on X using #BePresentBePowerful @attendanceworks
- √ Follow us on LinkedIn



√ Add a badge to your signature line or materials







# We will post a recording of this webinar within 72 hours:

http://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/webinars/





# Please let us know how we can improve:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AAC-August-2024

Thank you!



## And special appreciation to our philanthropic partners!

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