

Chronic Absenteeism: Causes and Best Practices



ROOT CAUSES: Barriers and Aversions	BEST PRACTICES: Programmatic Response to Barriers and Aversions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mental health issues ● Emotional health issues ● Trauma - ACEs ● Physical health issues ● Medical illness ● Loss of family, death in family ● Family dynamics ● Divorce ● Custody concerns ● Parent work schedule, unavailability ● Transportation ● Language barriers ● Homelessness ● Food ● Clothing ● Academic frustration ● Social frustration ● Bullying ● Child care needs ● Pregnancy ● Parents had poor or negative school experiences 	<p><i>I. Implement proactive universal (Tier I) practices to engage students and parents</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide HCS parent resources/deliverables to all parents ● Collect a signed HERE! contract for EVERY student ● Implement Social Emotional Learning (SEL) to shift school culture ● Communicate expectations early and often ● Offer proactive parent information sessions ● Utilize translators to support families who do not speak English ● Address No Shows in the first 2 weeks ● Educate on the connection between attendance and learning/achievement ● Create welcoming learning environments ● Improve student feelings of connectedness ● Apply fair and consistent discipline ● Provide engaging instruction ● Communicate that students are missed when they are absent ● Begin attendance recovery programs in the beginning of the year (i.e. Saturday school, Twilight School) <p><i>II. Monitor attendance data and practices</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop a Combating Chronic Absences (CCA) team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Administrator ○ Attendance personnel (clerk, secretary, BASE worker) ○ School nurse ○ Dean of Students

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>School counselor</i> ○ <i>Graduation Specialist</i> ○ <i>Behavior Specialist</i> ○ <i>Data Processor</i> ○ <i>Family Engagement Specialist</i> ● CCA team meets weekly to monitor and analyze attendance data ● Monitor chronic (EA + UA + OSS) and truancy (unexcused only) absences <p><i>III. Provide personalized outreach</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conference with student, families ● Conduct root cause analysis ● Record conferences and interventions in RtI ● Record HERE! actions in PowerSchool ● Offer parent workshops ● Match interventions to the root causes, i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safety plan ○ Peer and adult mentors ○ Academic recovery plan or interventions ○ Community resources ○ Student Intervention Team ○ Chronic illness form, 504 ○ Bullying protocol ○ Small group counseling ○ McKinney Vento application ○ School Social Worker assistance <p><i>IV. Provide opportunities for attendance recovery</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parenting Workshops (2 absences) ● 90 consecutive minutes of alternative academic instruction (AIS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Saturday School ○ Twilight School (after school) ○ Academic Field Trips (outside school hours) ● Recode absences using the AIS Code
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