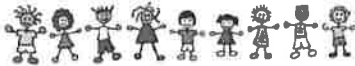


Chronic Absenteeism: Incidence, Impact and Interventions

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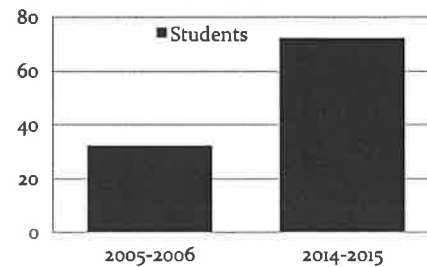
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A SOCIETY
GROWS GREAT
WHEN OLD MEN
PLANT TREES
WHOSE SHADE
THEY KNOW
THEY SHALL
NEVER SIT IN.


GERARD PROVERB

Problem Scope?

Chronic Absentee Students
138% Increase



Chronic Absenteeism
vs
Attendance




Chronic Absenteeism
vs
Attendance

Attendance: Percentage of Student present each day

↑ 95%

Chronic Absenteeism

- Defined as missing 10% or more school days for any reason
- Translated to 18 days per year or 2 days per month
- Absences are for any reason:
 - Excused and Unexcused



Chronic Absenteeism
vs
Attendance

Attendance: Percentage of Student present each day


Chronic Absenteeism: Percentage of Students who miss 10% of school days

Chronic Absenteeism
vs
Attendance

Chronic Absenteeism: Percentage of Students who miss 10% of school days

↑ 19.5%

Chronic Absenteeism
vs
Attendance



Daily Attendance Rates Might Mask Significant Levels of Chronic Absence

- Suppose, for example, a school has 100 students, and, on average, 95 percent show up every day.

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Daily Attendance Rates Might Mask Significant Levels of Chronic Absence

- Suppose, for example, a school has 100 students, and, on average, 95 percent show up every day.
- The same five students, however, are not absent for all 180 days.
- Rather, it is quite possible that the school is serving 30 students who take turns being absent.

Daily Attendance Rates Might Mask Significant Levels of Chronic Absence

If this is the case, then 30% of the students are chronically absent... even though the average daily attendance goal is achieved.

Case Study

- “John”
 - K5 – 3rd grade: Total of 117 days missed
- Changed Districts/Returned
- Evaluated for Special Education in the 3rd Grade

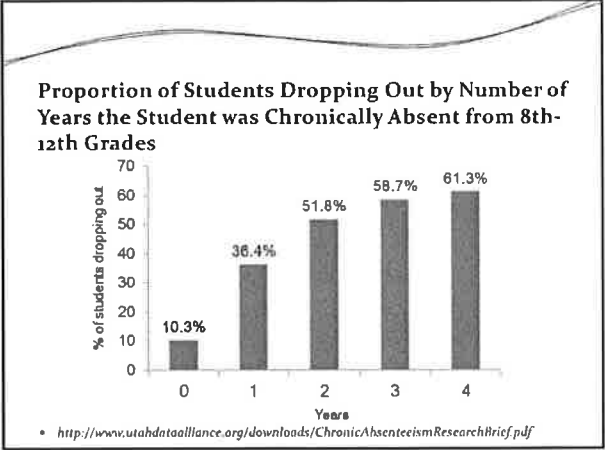
Impact of Chronic Absenteeism

- A Rhode Island Data Hub analysis found that compared to kindergartners who attend regularly, those chronically absent:
 - 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

Impact of Chronic Absenteeism

- A student who was chronically absent in any year, starting in the 8th grade, was 7.4 times more likely to drop out of school than a student who was not chronically absent during any of those years.
- For each year that a student is chronically absent, his or her odds of dropping out approximately double

• <http://www.utahdataalliance.org/downloads/ChronicAbsenteeismResearchBrief.pdf>



Impact of Chronic Absenteeism

- **Chronic Absenteeism**
 - is the leading indicator for student drop outs.

Chronic Absence Disparities

- 2 in 10 low-income students
- 2.5 in 10 homeless students
- 4 in 10 transient students
- Minority and Special Education students have a double impact for lost days.

2013-2014 Federal Government Chronic Elementary Absentee Data

	Year Total
Franklin	11.1%
Hoover	10.5%
Mann	15.1%
Irving	14.5%
Jefferson	19.7%
Longfellow	21.3%
Madison	12.3%
Mitchell	5.5%
Pershing	13.9%
Walker	12.9%
Wilson	17.9%

School District Demographics

- 57% Students - Free and Reduced Lunch
- 42% Diversity
- 9,000 students
- No bus transportation
 - Exceptions: Crossing a hazard/>2 miles

Barriers/Aversions to Attendance

- Transportation
- No safe path to school



Barriers/Aversions to Attendance

- Trauma
- Homeless
- Transitions



Barriers/Aversions to Attendance

- Academic Struggles



Barriers/Aversions to Attendance

- Lack of engaging instruction/staff



Barriers/Aversions to Attendance

- Negative parental experience



Health Barriers

- Asthma: 11% of student population
- Asthma is a leading chronic illness among children and adolescents in the United States.
- It is also one of the leading causes of school absenteeism.



Health Barriers

- Bullying: 54% of high school students reported feeling safe at school.
- Mental Health: School Avoidance, School Anxiety



Health Barriers

- Oral Health/Dental Pain= nearly 3x more likely to miss school
- Absences caused by pain were associated with poorer school performance but absences for routine care were not.



Health Barriers

- Nutrition: Universal Breakfast/Free and Reduced Lunches



Health Barriers

- Vision: Free Screening and Eyeglasses for uninsured.



Health Barriers

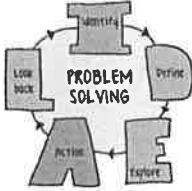
- Asthma
- Mental Health
- Oral/Dental Health
- Nutrition
- Vision

Root Causes


- Individual Student Factors
- Parent/Family Factors
- School Factors
- Neighborhood Factors



Focus



- Fix a Problem
- Change a Behavior



Interventions


- Identify students at risk for chronic absenteeism
- Weekly Attendance Monitoring
 - Automatic Report to Student Services
- School Nurses Notified
 - >2 absences per month or 10%
 - chronic or acute illness identified

Interventions

- Team Meetings – Case Study
 - Thomas – Missed 20 days/50 possible
 - Had medical excuses
 - Family Stressors
 - Empower the Student
 - ? Attendance since the meeting ?

Interventions

- Medical Excuses
 - ...shall state the time period for which it is valid, not to exceed 30 days.
 - WI Statute 118.5(3)(a)



Interventions


- Attendance Success Plan for High Risk Students
- Before School Care – Pilot
- “Walking School Bus” or Parental neighborhood buddy system for transportation

Interventions

- Communicative not Punitive
- Revision and consistent enforcement of the District Attendance Policy at the Elementary Level
- Positive Winter Break Attendance messaging

Winter Break Messaging

- Positive messaging
 - Superintendent Newsletter
 - Websites
 - District
 - Schools
 - Twitter



Winter Break Messaging

- Give the Gift of Attendance
 - Winter Break Letters/Articles
 - Teachers will be teaching every day and students will miss out on instruction
 - Encourage teachers to talk to students about showing up
 - Plan a special event for the first day back after Holiday Break

Winter Break Messaging

Results - Number of Students Absent on the First Day Following Winter Break 2013 - 2016

Year	All Grades	Elementary Grades
2013	1,085	417
2014	1,638	699
2015	1,192	462
2016	700	258

Winter Break Messaging

Number of Students Absent on the First Day Following Winter Break

Results :

2016

44% ↓ in Elementary Absenteeism

2017: 28% ↓

Intervention Funding

- Grant monies
 - WAWM Foundation Grant - \$300
 - Johnson and Johnson Grant - \$1,200
 - Health Dept./University of Wisconsin Madison
 - Community Opportunity Grant 2016-2018
 - \$49,000 over 2 years

Interventions

- Update attendance Policy and Procedures
- Creative Attendance Incentives
 - Lunch with the Mayor
 - Reduced price prom tickets
 - Book store certificates
 - Coffee Shop Coupons
 - Pizza Lunch with Board member

Interventions

- Collective Impact
 - Police Department: School Liaison Officer
 - Fire Department
 - Mayor Dan Devine
 - Chamber of Commerce: Culvers

Interventions

- Collective Impact
 - Faith Based Organizations
 - Head Start/Preschools
 - School Board Members
 - Parent Teacher Organizations

Interventions

- University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
- Population Health:
 - Senior Nursing Course
 - Focus on Attendance/
 - Health/Life Outcomes
 - Started with one school Sept/2016 expand to 3+ schools Jan/2018



Interventions

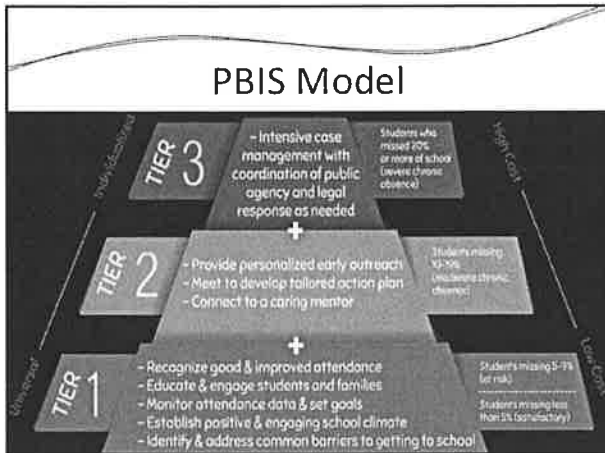
- Joining Attendance Works:
 - Superintendent Call to Action – 9/2016
- Poster Contest via the Recreation Department – Fall 2017
- Ages and Stages Questionnaires – Emotional/Behavior to identify students at risk – Spring 2018

Interventions

- Positive Return to School messaging
 - 4K registration Spring 2016/17/18
 - Parent/Teacher Organizations
 - Automatic Calls
 - Email and Text alerts
 - Nudge Postcards

Sustainability

- Attendance is a Behavior – whether by the student or by the parent/guardian.
- Incorporation attendance data in PBIS interventions and Child Focused Team meetings.



Evaluation/Outcomes

- Stakeholder Engagement
- Proposed and Evaluation
 - Increased Attendance Monitoring
 - Elementary Attendance Policy
 - School Nurses Notification
 - Social-Emotional Screening 4K
 - Institute a “Walking School Bus”

Evaluation/Outcomes

- Decreased Absenteeism
- Increased
 - Engagement
 - Achievement
 - Graduation Rates

Evaluation/Outcomes

- Increased Graduation Rates
 - Improved
 - Employment Opportunities
 - Lifetime Earnings
 - Lifelong Learning
- Healthy Schools, Community and Future



Resources

- Absences Add Up Campaign
- Attendance Works
- Johns Hopkins University Center for Social Organization of Schools
- My Brother's Keeper Initiative
- The Attendance Institute
- Every Student, Every Day: A National Initiative to Address and Eliminate Chronic Absenteeism.

