

TIPS FOR REDUCING CHRONIC ABSENCE

REGULAR ATTENDANCE REDUCES EDUCATIONAL INEQUITIES

1

SUPPORT ATTENDANCE



- A consistent and predictable routine for learning every day gives children an assuring sense of stability which many lost when school buildings close.
- Chronic absence (missing 10% or more of school) leads to students not reading proficiently by third grade, course failure in middle school and dropout in high school.
- Absenteeism is a lost opportunity to learn. We can't afford to think of absenteeism as merely a lack of compliance with school rules.

2

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS



- Caring adults, such as teachers, mentors and afterschool providers are critical to encouraging families and students to pay attention to absences adding up and to seek out help to overcome barriers.
- Strong, trusting relationships motivate students to attend school even when it isn't easy to get to class or participate in distance learning.
- Establishing ongoing communication with families/caregivers and welcoming them as partners helps ensure that students are supported at home and in school.

3

COLLABORATE



- Poor participation is a problem we can solve when the whole community collaborates with families and schools to support the transitions into school, whether it be in person, virtual or a blend.
- Governments, public agencies and community partners can address barriers to being in school by providing food, access to physical and mental health care, financial assistance and other supports for students and families.