



Reducing Chronic Early Absence Tips for Schools

- ❖ Cultivate a **culture of attendance**, including a welcoming and engaging school environment that emphasizes building positive relationships with families and the importance of attending school every day.
- ❖ Raise awareness about the **impact of chronic absence** on school success, and how schools and communities can work together to improve student attendance.
- ❖ **Orient parents** on school policies and expectations for student attendance and on-time arrival.
- ❖ Provide **recognition for good and improved school attendance**.
- ❖ Adopt **strong school health policies**, including washing hands before snack and lunch. Encourage staff and children to get an **annual flu shot**.
- ❖ Develop systems that provide **frequent reports** on student absenteeism by school, grade, and student subgroup, and, if possible, by day of the week and reasons for absenteeism. **Set goals for improvement and monitor progress**.
- ❖ Create a district-wide **chronic absence task force** made up of parents and key city, school, and community-based agencies, to identify and address systemic barriers to attendance.
- ❖ Establish **school attendance teams** to review chronic absence data, identify students with troubling absenteeism patterns, and develop school-wide and individual interventions as needed.
- ❖ The best predictor of chronic absence is a past history of chronic absence, so **identify troubling patterns of chronic absence and intervene early**.
- ❖ Address school attendance in your **school improvement plan**.

