



Overcoming Common Barriers to Getting Data on Chronic Absence

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Advancing Student Success By Reducing Chronic Absence



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What Is Happening in *Your* Community?

Does your grade level reading community have chronic absence data?

- Yes!**
- Partial – we have more than one district.
Some have collected chronic absence data.
Some have not.**
- No, not yet.**



AGENDA

1. Introduction and Overview

2. Panel Discussion

- Symia Stigler, Sacramento READS!
- Abe Fernandez, Children's Aid Society National Center for Community Schools
- Randy Koekkoek, Kent County Department of Human Services and Kent School Services Network
- Hedy Chang, Attendance Works

3. Tools to Help Your Community

Overcome Barriers to Getting Chronic Absence Data



Unpacking Attendance Terms

Average Daily Attendance

- **Definition:** The % of enrolled students who attend school each day
- **Answers:** What resources are needed given the number of students who typically show up to school?

Truancy

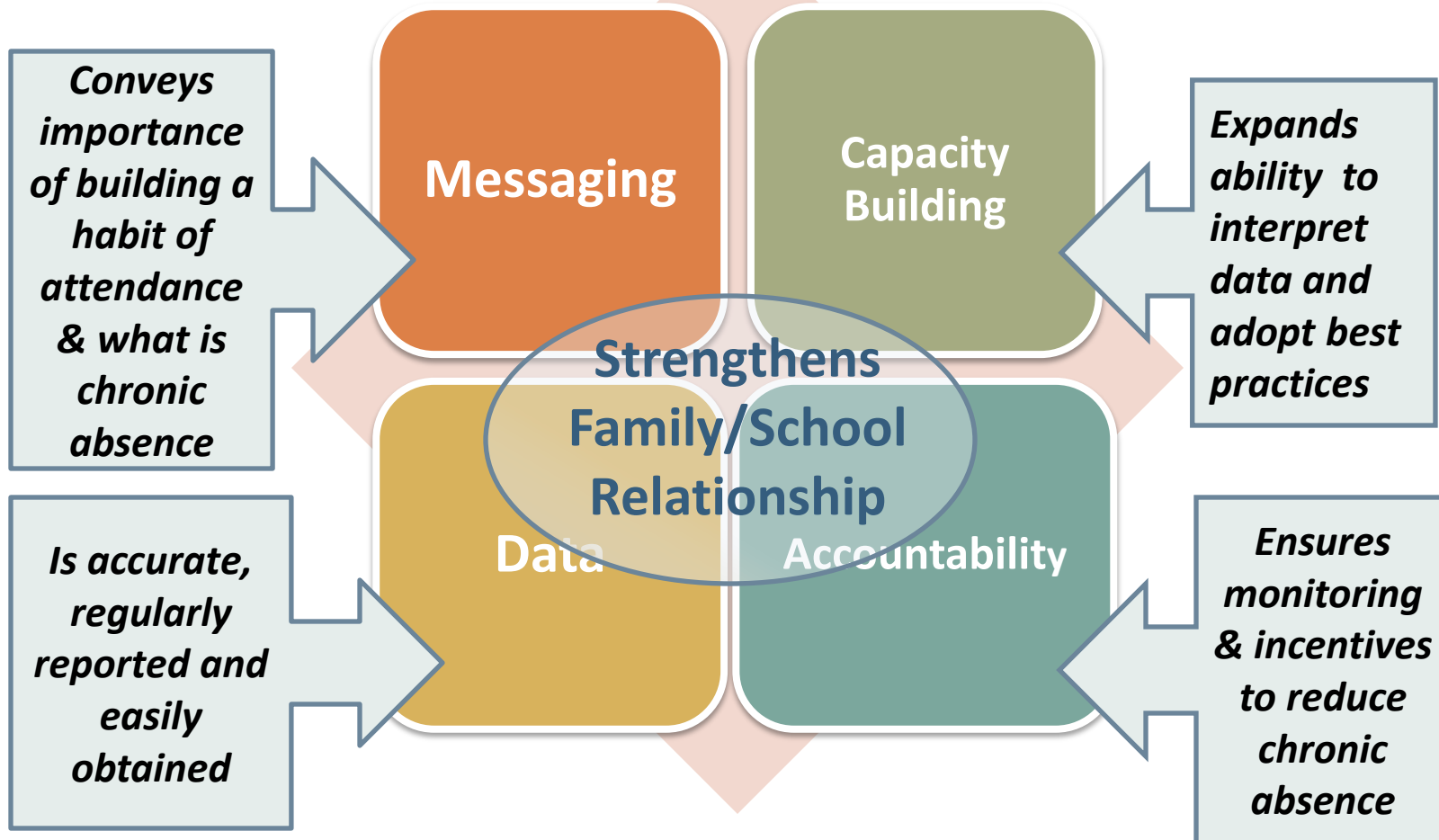
- **Definition:** Typically refers only to unexcused absences and is defined by each state and sometimes by school district.
- **Answers:** How many/which students are skipping school and breaking compulsory attendance laws?

Chronic Absence

- **Proposed National Definition:** Missing 10% or more of school for any reason – excused, unexcused, etc.
- **Answers:** How many and which students are missing so much school they are academically at risk? Do we need to improve attendance in order to raise achievement?



Ingredients for Success and Sustainability in a District





Today's Panelists



Abe Fernandez



Symia Stigler



Hedy Chang



Randy Koekkoek



Scenario A

I believe that my district has the data necessary to calculate chronic absence, but nobody is tracking it or seems to understand why it is worth the effort. Everyone in the district tells me they have no resources or capacity to start working on a new initiative.



Scenario B

Our CSAP focused primarily on kindergarten readiness and chronic absence is a very new concept for us. I only recently learned about why it matters and how it differs from ADA and truancy, but among my Grade Level Reading partners, there is little to no awareness of what chronic absence is.



Scenario C

We only have one school district in our community. It has seen considerable turnover in recent months, including the Associate Superintendent in charge of attendance. The district is currently ambivalent about the issue of chronic absence and I do not know who to partner with in the district, how to get them on board, or who should be at the table to engage on this issue.



Scenario D

I am concerned that the data quality in our districts is very poor and even if I were to convince them to crunch their numbers, the results would not be reliable. What should I do?



Scenario E

Our community is made up of 6 different districts. They vary in size and level of engagement with the Campaign. We have had a challenging time getting all the districts on the same page on a number of issues—people have varying opinions on priorities and many of the districts have distinct processes, rules, and data platforms. Additionally, while resources and capacity are issues for all our districts, some of the smaller districts are so overwhelmed that they are paying little attention to the Campaign and have offered no response to our requests for data.



Scenario F

The Superintendent of our district is concerned about calculating chronic absence. She feels that schools can't be held responsible for whether students attend school and she does not want to make her district accountable for one more measure on top of everything else.



Scenario G

We have overall chronic absence data in our school district – but we don't know the information by school or by sub-population. I've heard that the DATT/SATT can help us examine that kind of data but I can't convince my superintendent and his staff that doing so is worth the trouble.



Tools to Help Overcome Common Barriers to Getting Chronic Absence Data

<http://www.attendanceworks.org>

<http://www.attendanceworks.org/confidentiality-forms-for-volunteers/>

<http://www.attendanceworks.org/tools/tools-for-calculating-chronic-absence/>



Attendance Works Webinars for the GLR Campaign

- **All Together Now! Developing Systemic Responses to Chronic Absence**

November 13, 1-2 ET

- **Addressing Health-Related Challenges to Attendance**

*December **13** at 1 ET*