

Viewpoints

Addressing Chronic Absenteeism To Support Student Success



In addressing chronic absenteeism in public schools, it's imperative to recognize that regular school attendance profoundly impacts student well-being and academic achievement. As we navigate the post-pandemic educational landscape, the resurgence of in-person learning must emphasize the holistic benefits beyond mere classroom instruction. School attendance fosters routines that reduce stress and create environments of safety and security, crucial for both learning and emotional growth. Moreover, it enhances student engagement by facilitating connections with peers and educators, while ensuring access to vital resources like meals, health services, and extracurricular activities. To effectively combat absenteeism, we must shift from punitive measures to collaborative problem-solving, partnering with families to identify and address underlying barriers. By leveraging data-informed strategies and investing in comprehensive, multiyear approaches like Connecticut's Learner Engagement and Attendance Program, we can collectively strive towards equitable educational outcomes. Now more than ever, reaffirming the significance of showing up every day not only revitalizes our educational communities but reaffirms our commitment to every student's future success.



You can read the full article at:

This attendance crisis is having a significant and broad impact on learning, given that two-thirds of enrolled students attended a school with high (from 20 percent to 29 percent) or extreme (over 30 percent) levels of chronic absence. Chronic absenteeism at these unprecedented levels affects the learning experience of all students, even those who show up every day. When chronic absence reaches high levels, the churn in the classroom makes it harder for teachers to set classroom norms and to teach and harder for peers to learn.

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