

Attendance Update



CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Missing 10% or more of total school days, including both excused and unexcused absences. Missing 10% of eligible school days (18 days for the full school year).

2017-2018	2018-2019	2021-2022
12.2%	15.2%	33.9%



Summer of 2022- Meetings with Principals & Assistant Principals

When asked what are the three biggest challenges facing our district, attendance was a consistent answer



AASD Work Group Recommendations

MAINTAIN	ADAPT	NEW
Universal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Accurate attendance taking-improve fidelity <input type="checkbox"/> Classroom community opportunities to increase sense of belonging <input type="checkbox"/> Expectation clarity for students 	Universal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Student education on attendance <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of attendance letters by level <input type="checkbox"/> Universal messaging- importance of attendance <input type="checkbox"/> Consistent Implementation of Evidence Based Interventions (Secondary) 	Universal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Community campaign messaging <input type="checkbox"/> Student-led PR Campaign <input type="checkbox"/> Expectation clarity for parents/accountability <input type="checkbox"/> Training for staff on evidence-based practices (see recommendations) <input type="checkbox"/> Scheduling considerations for students (secondary)
Tier 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> TRAC support <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence based interventions 	Tier 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Training of Evidence Based Interventions (See Recommendations) <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt a TRAC type support for elementary sites <input type="checkbox"/> Education plus requirement lesson for students (formerly called Civics Lesson) <input type="checkbox"/> Consistent training with special education staff to address attendance 	Tier 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Home visit training and support (elementary) <input type="checkbox"/> Parent education on school and community supports <input type="checkbox"/> Prevention work-EC-6 Level <input type="checkbox"/> Consider transportation bus changes <input type="checkbox"/> Increase incentive strategy plans for students
Tier 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> County referral option but explore other options for non-attenders <input type="checkbox"/> Keep previously approved staffing for attendance 	Tier 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative plans for non-attenders <input type="checkbox"/> Communication to all stakeholders on attendance plans for students <input type="checkbox"/> Consider appropriate FTE allocation at High School <input type="checkbox"/> Address attendance support by level (see recommendation) 	Tier 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Explore required education for parents <input type="checkbox"/> Explore additional tier 3 options with a partnership approach <input type="checkbox"/> Additional FTE to support early intervention for attendance



Current Support System for Students

Universal

- Implementation of best practices for belonging, connection & engagement
- Attendance is talked about & part of the school culture
- Accurate attendance taking practices
- Recognition of positive/improved attendance
- Attendance team meets at least every other week
- Family engagement, education and supports
- Attendance letters & other family communication (electronic 3 & 7 day letters are sent automatically)

Tier 3 Strategies & Supports

- Check & Connect
- School based mental health referral
- Alternative education support (high school)
- Alternative plans for non-attendance/school avoidance
- Brief Behavior Plan
- Home visits/intensive outreach
- County prevention referral (elementary)
- Community referral
- County truancy referral (ages 10-17)*

Tier 2 Strategies & Supports

- Attendance education lessons (elementary & middle)
- Walking school bus (elementary)
- Attendance letters (5 & 10 day letters as determined by the attendance team)
- Targeted intervention with Student Success Advisors and Coordinators, Youth Advocates
- Mentoring
- Check in/Check out
- Student success plans
- Home visits
- SAIG
- Attendance incentives
- TRAC referral (secondary)



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Survey data from staff - Spring of 2022, 2023, 2024

- Sadness when student attendance impacts student success
- Request for more resources to support student attendance
- Frustration with inability to support students who are not in school



Outcomes for students who are not successful:

- The likelihood of a high school student who is living in poverty earning a living wage by age 30 increases from 21% to 58% with strong academic achievement (Paths of Opportunity, What it Will Take for All Young People to Thrive)
- A student who is chronically absent in one year out of the five years from 8th through 12th grade is seven times more likely to drop out of school. (AASA School Administrator)
- High school dropouts are nearly four times as likely to be receiving government assistance by age 27, more than three times as likely to have been arrested, and twice as likely to use illicit drugs (National Library of Medicine)
- 70% of adults in the prison system cannot read and write above the 4th-grade level (Correctional Education Association)
- As adults, we cannot allow teenagers to continually make decisions that will negatively impact their future



Assembled an Attendance Committee to develop actions that would address our attendance challenges:

- Included parents, staff, and community members
- Met from October 2023 through January 2024
- Prioritized the following actions
 - **City ordinance to include a citation as a last resort**
 - **Hire a second Attendance Coordinator**
 - **Improve relevance and engagement of curriculum**
 - **Increase transportation options**



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Timeline - Asking the City of Appleton for help

- Spring through fall of 2024 - Discussions with the City about an ordinance
- Presented at March 19th Common Council of the City
- Resolution submitted by Council member to pass an ordinance
- Resolution moved to the Safety and Licensing Committee



What are we asking for from the City of Appleton?

- ★ **An ordinance that would support student success**
- ★ **The ordinance would be used when our three-tiered system of support has not helped a student consistently attend school**
- ★ **The Common Council determines the dispositions that would be available to the court**
- ★ **Implemented during a 4-semester trial period, followed by a review of impact**



District-wide Attendance Data





CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM DATA

Missing 10% or more of total school days, including both excused and unexcused absences. Missing 10% of eligible school days (9+ days for Semester 1).

	2018-2019	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
4K/Elementary	8.6%	27.4%	14.0%	14.1%	13.8%
Middle	10.3%	25.1%	17.6%	19.4%	17.8%
High School	15.2%	33.9%	25.5%	23.7%	25.4%

**Because of the state-mandated school closures and rapid transition to virtual instruction during March of 2020 Chronic Attendance/ Habitual Truancy second semester attendance data is not comparable to other school year data.*

***Data from the 20-21 school year is also not comparable to other school year data due to the transition across our schools from virtual, to hybrid, to in-person learning.*

QUESTIONS

