

Learning Series 5

State Supports for Student, Family, and Community Engagement

Session 1: Integrating engagement strategies
into State Systems-Level Initiatives

August 20, 2024



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Learning Series Overview

- ▶ **Session 1:** Integrating Student, Family, and Community Engagement into State Systems-Level Initiatives *[Today]*
- ▶ **Session 2:** Creating a Comprehensive Approach to Out-of-School Programs *[August 27, 2024]*
- ▶ **Session 3:** Developing School-Community Partnerships *[September 3, 2024]*

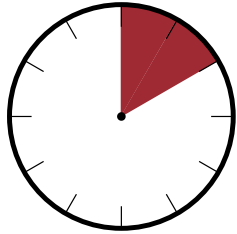
Learning Series Objectives

- ▶ Understand how State-level support for student, family, and community engagement can play a critical role in boosting attendance;
- ▶ Learn strategies for integrating engagement efforts into comprehensive approaches to address chronic absenteeism;
- ▶ Engage with participants in facilitated breakout groups to learn how other States and districts are using engagement strategies.

Session 1 Objectives

- ▶ Understand the importance of integrating student, family, and community engagement in a comprehensive approach to mitigate chronic absenteeism
- ▶ Learn from Ohio's Attendance Task Force and systems-level approach
- ▶ Discuss strategies for integrating stakeholder engagement into systems-level approaches to address chronic absenteeism

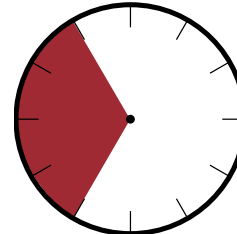
Agenda



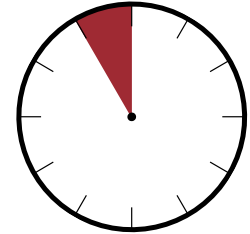
- ▶ Introduction to the Learning Series and Session (10 min)



- ▶ Presentation from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (25 minutes)



- ▶ Breakout Discussion (20 minutes)



- ▶ Wrap-up and next steps (5 min)

The Case for a Systems Approach

Lowest performing schools

Examples: Intensive Technical Assistance & Coaching

Districts with High Levels of Chronic Absence

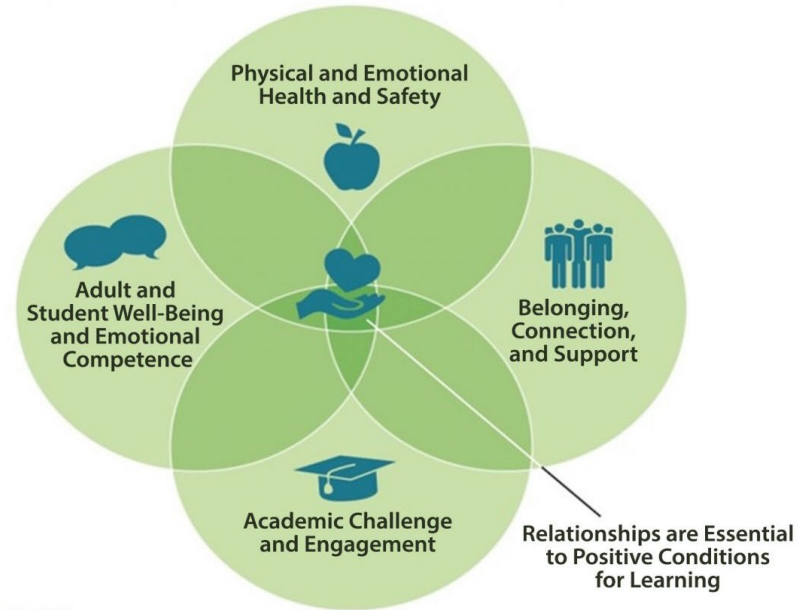
Examples: Community of Practice; Targeted/ Integrated Investment in Key Programs (*i.e. Home Visiting, Tutoring, Expanded Learning, Community Schools*); Establishment of Teams to Address Attendance

State Support for All Schools & Districts

Examples: State Guidance on Effective Practices, State Messaging Campaign

Connecting School Climate, Messaging, and Attendance

- ▶ Positive school climate and positive conditions for learning are tied to high or improving attendance rates (Darling-Hammond & Cook-Harvey, 2018).
- ▶ Student and family engagement practices are critical for creating a positive school climate and conditions for learning.



Presenters

Jennifer Ruff

*Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Assistant Administrator
of Safe and Supportive Schools Office of Whole Child Supports*



Patrick Hickman

Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, Ohio's Attendance Advisor



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

State System Strategies To Address Chronic Absenteeism

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Assistant Administrator of Safe and Supportive Schools
Office of Whole Child Supports
Department of Education and Workforce

PATRICK HICKMAN

Ohio's Attendance Advisor
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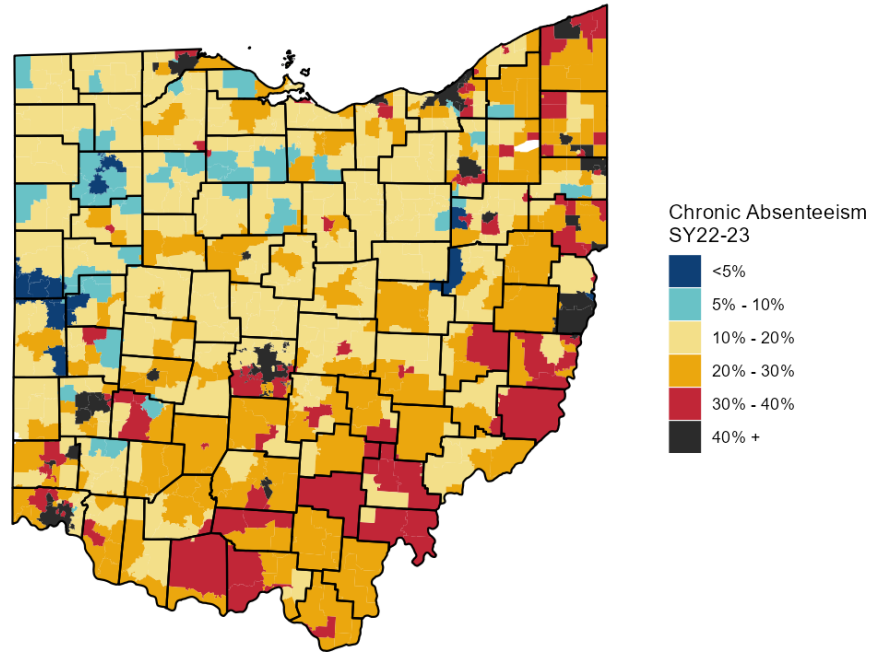
August 2024



Why an Attendance Task Force?



Ohio Chronic Absence by School District



Data source: Ohio Department of Education & Workforce,
<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Attendance-Support/Attendance-School-and-District-Supports>

Task Force Takeaways

- “Teachers need to make a strong effort to connect. It helps us notice that we would be missed or knowing it matters if we're not there.” - Student
- “Families often receive a letter that threatens truancy charges before a team approach to problem-solve is taken or a root cause is discovered. This puts families and schools against each other right out of the gate.” - Parent
- “[Attendance is] the responsibility of the community: parents, administration, nurses, teachers, community organizations, health care organizations. The only answer is that this is a collective response.” – Business Leader



View the [full Task Force report](#) here

Task Force Recommendations

Attendance is everyone's responsibility

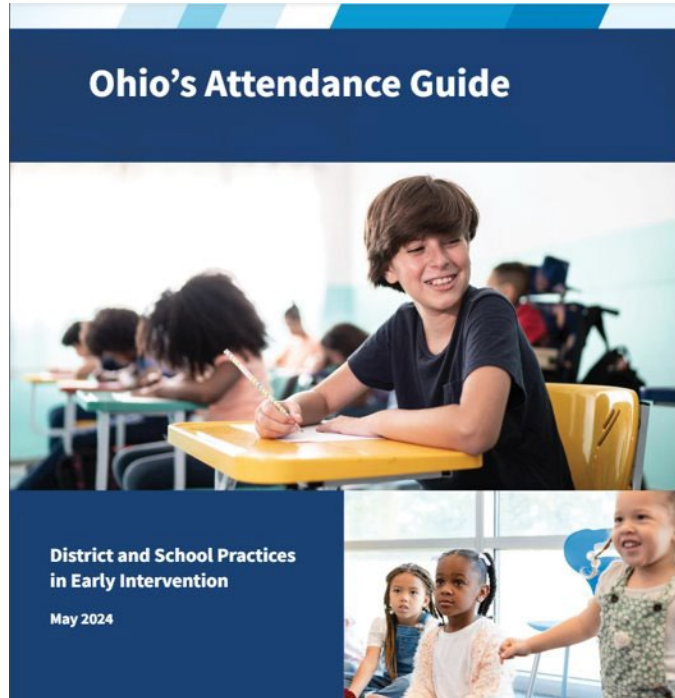
Increase engagement and trust with families and students

School needs to be a place where kids want to be

Schools and districts need resources and systems

Examine attendance policy at state and local level

Ohio's Attendance Guide



- Chronic Absence Overview
- Ohio's Attendance Laws
- Ways for districts to improve attendance
- Ways for schools to improve attendance

Attendance Guide Organization

District Teams

- Data systems and dashboards
- Promote multitiered attendance strategies
- Community and family engagement

Building Teams

- Early student and family outreach
- Proactively engaging school climate
- Qualitative student data

Tier 1 Supports For All Schools



Communication Tools



Data Tools



Training Tools

Tier 2 Supports for At-Risk Districts and Schools

Support Impacted Districts

Student Voice Workgroup

Integrated Regional Trainings

Tier 3 Supports For Individuals



QUESTIONS?

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Patrick Hickman

Ohio's Attendance Advisor

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**Department of
Education &
Workforce**



Breakout Group Discussion



Breakout Discussion

1. What did you find compelling or challenging about Ohio's approach to integrating student, family, and community engagement into its system-level approach to addressing chronic absenteeism?
2. How do the stakeholders you work with integrate student, family, and community engagement strategies into attendance improvement efforts?
3. What type of supports could help your State, district, or school better integrate student, family, and community engagement into systems for improving attendance?

Wrap-Up and Next Steps



Upcoming Sessions

- ▶ ***Learning Series 5: State Supports for Student, Family, and Community Engagement to Address Chronic Absenteeism***
 - **Session 2:** Creating a Comprehensive Approach to Out-of-School Programs to Address Chronic Absenteeism *[August 27, 2024]*
 - **Session 3:** Building SEA and LEA Capacity to Develop School-Community Partnerships *[September 3, 2024]*

We love to hear your feedback!

- ▶ Please fill out our end of session feedback form.



What's Next?

- ▶ Follow-up email will include session slides and resources
- ▶ Interested in working one-on-one with subject matter experts?
Let us know!



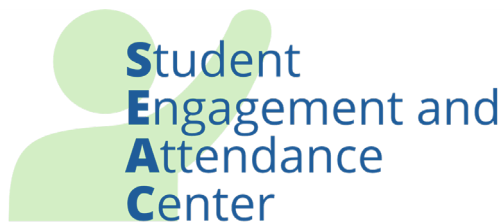
Questions?

**The Student Engagement
and Attendance Center**
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Contact the SEAC:
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Learn more about our work:
<https://www.ed.gov/teaching-and-administration/supporting-students/seac>

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