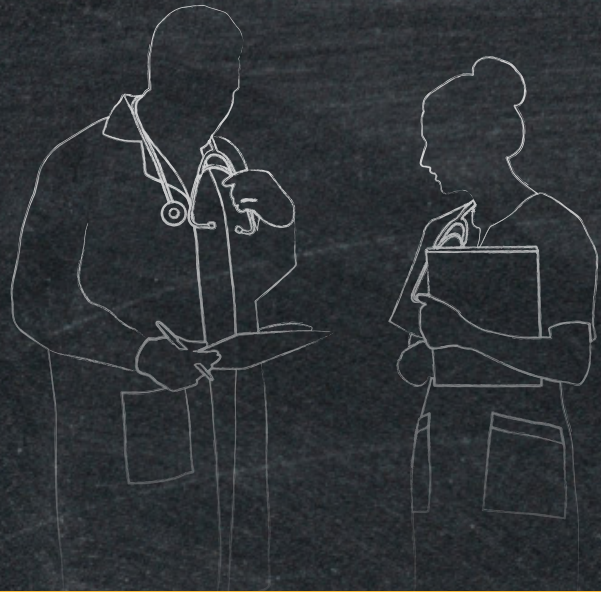


Chronic Absenteeism Reduction Effort

Healthcare Providers Can Partner with Educators to Keep Kids in School



Chronic absenteeism—**defined as missing 10% or more of the school year**—can affect any student, in any grade. It can also put the health of students at risk.

What if educators and healthcare providers could work together to keep kids in school?



Healthcare providers and schools serve the same kids. And healthcare providers can help identify and manage the very conditions that often keep kids from being able to go to school.

That makes healthcare providers **key partners** for schools in efforts to prevent chronic absenteeism and intervene when it happens.

Since 2019, the American Academy of Pediatrics has encouraged healthcare providers to take a role in addressing school attendance.

3 Things Healthcare Providers Need to Know

- ✓ Students who do not graduate high school have greater health risks as adults. The less education adults have, the more likely they are to smoke, be overweight, have diabetes, and die prematurely of certain chronic conditions.¹
- ✓ Youth who attend school regularly are less likely to engage in behaviors associated with poor health outcomes such as substance use or high-risk sexual behaviors.²
- ✓ Not earning a high school diploma is associated with increased mortality risk or lower life expectancy.³

Research shows youth of color, youth from low-income backgrounds, and youth who have experienced trauma are **four times more likely to experience chronic absenteeism.**

1. Telfair J., Shelton T.L., Reynolds H.R. Educational Attainment as a Social Determinant of Health Positive Behavior Intervention and Support, 2012; 73(5):358–65.
2. Eaton DK, Brener N, Kann LK. Associations of Health Risk Behaviors With School Absenteeism. Does Having Permission for the Absence Make a Difference? Journal of School Health. 2008;78(4):223–229. doi:10.1111/j.1746-1561.2008.00290.
3. Lawrence, E. M., Rogers, R. G., & Zajacova, A. (2016). Educational Attainment and Mortality in the United States: Effects of degrees, years of schooling, and certification. Population Research and Policy Review, 35(4), 501–525.

Healthcare providers can support school attendance by following the ‘Straight A’s’

- ✓ **Ask** families about their children’s attendance during well-child visits.
- ✓ **Amplify** the impact of school attendance on health.
- ✓ **Address** barriers that keep kids from going to school.
- ✓ **Actively** partner with families and schools.

Building an Infrastructure to Reduce Chronic Absenteeism

The Chronic Absenteeism Reduction Effort (CARE) project, piloted in Washington, D.C., informs healthcare providers about chronic absenteeism using secure data sharing, and builds partnerships between the health and education sectors.

Through this novel initiative, families consent to have their students’ attendance data shared with their healthcare providers, who then conduct outreach to families to provide resources and medical attention, as needed.

Learn more at americanhealth.jhu.edu/CARE.

Watch: Pediatric Healthcare Teams Supporting School Attendance

Top Health Reasons Kids Miss Too Much School⁴

- > **Asthma**
- > **Oral health and dental pain**
- > **Influenza**
- > **Anxiety**
- > **Depression**
- > **Parents’ physical or mental health**
- > **Type I and II diabetes mellitus**
- > **Seizure disorders**
- > **Obesity**

Over **80% of health outcomes** are driven by the impact of socioeconomic and environmental factors—such as being exposed to trauma, not having stable housing, or not having access to food, transportation and healthcare.



4. Mandy A. Allison, Elliott Attisha, Council On School Health (2019). The Link Between School Attendance and Good Health. Pediatrics Feb 2019, 143 (2) e20183648; DOI: 10.1542/peds.2018-3648.

Providers being involved in school attendance goes to the DNA of pediatrics. We focus on prevention. We focus on building relationships with families and communities. We can help set up students for a healthier school year.

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