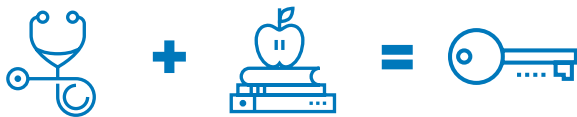


Educators and Healthcare Providers Can **Work Together** to Support Families with School Attendance



Missing too much school affects kids' ability to learn and succeed. Schools and healthcare providers are working together to help families get the medical care and support their children need to attend school regularly.



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.

When healthcare providers know kids have been missing school, they can help. For example, a child's doctor may be able to recommend a new or different medication to help make the child feel better and to better control their asthma, allergies, or other conditions. The healthcare team may also be able to support other common issues that impact school attendance, such as transportation or at-home child care needs.

Finding Ways to Boost Kids' Health and Get Them Back in the Classroom

The Chronic Absenteeism Reduction Effort (CARE) project, piloted in Washington, D.C., informs healthcare providers about chronic absenteeism. Parents or guardians can choose to give permission to the schools to securely share attendance information with their child's doctors, nurses and medical office staff.

Many families in the program received much-needed help to support school attendance because healthcare providers were notified that their patients were missing school. For example, one healthcare provider connected with a family whose elementary-aged child missed school regularly due to poorly controlled asthma and a COVID-19 hospitalization. The child was able to get updated asthma medication and the parents got the resources and support resources they needed to care for their child. The next month, the child was no longer absent.

Top Health Reasons Kids Miss Too Much School¹

- › 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.

1. 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.

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**If our students aren't well in
body and mind, they can't
benefit from instruction.**

DR. HEIDI SCHUMACHER

Assistant Superintendent Health and Wellness
Office of the State Superintendent of Education,
Washington, D.C.

Learn more about how to address chronic absenteeism in your community by
downloading the CARE Playbook at americanhealth.jhu.edu/CARE.