

Attendance Conversations in Grandview



Sheila Tiliano
Assistant Principal
Smith Elementary



Betsy Ledesma
Counseling Assistant



- ~3,700 Students
- 3 Elementaries, 1 middle school, 1 high school
- 92% Latinx
- 76% Free & Reduced Lunch
- 35% Transitional Bilingual



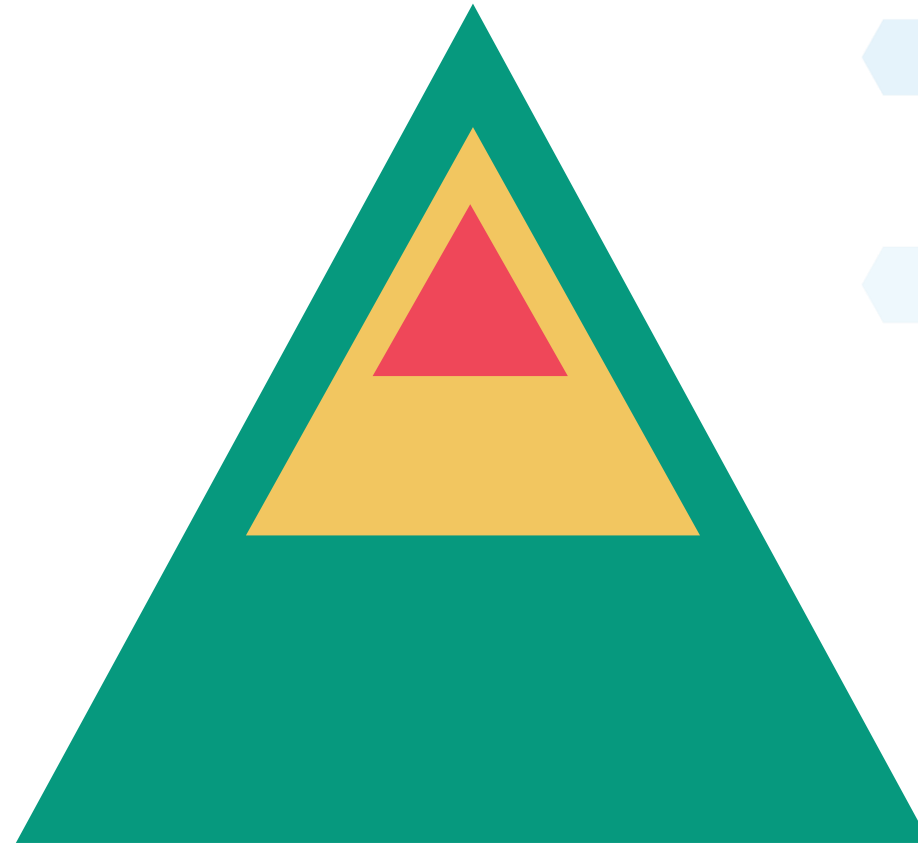
Tony Torres
Graduation Specialist



Today's Topics

- Why start with Tier 1?
- Best practice
- What does Tier 1 look like in the field?

Grandview



Multi-Tiered Response to Attendance

Tier 1: All Students

- Absence data is accurate & timely
- Clear, consistent & widely understood attendance policy
- Engaging instruction, extracurricular & positive school climate
- Define and teach “good attendance”
- Celebrate good and improved attendance
- Awareness efforts that educate parents and students about importance of attendance
- Team monitors attendance data frequently
- Address common barriers to attendance like transportation
- Partnering with families

Tier 2: Students with At-risk Attendance

- Personalized early outreach
- Action plan addresses barriers and increases engagement
- Nudge letters

Tier 3: Students that are Chronically Absent

- Coordinated school and interagency response
- Home visitors, graduation & family support specialists
- Check & Connect
- Community Truancy Boards



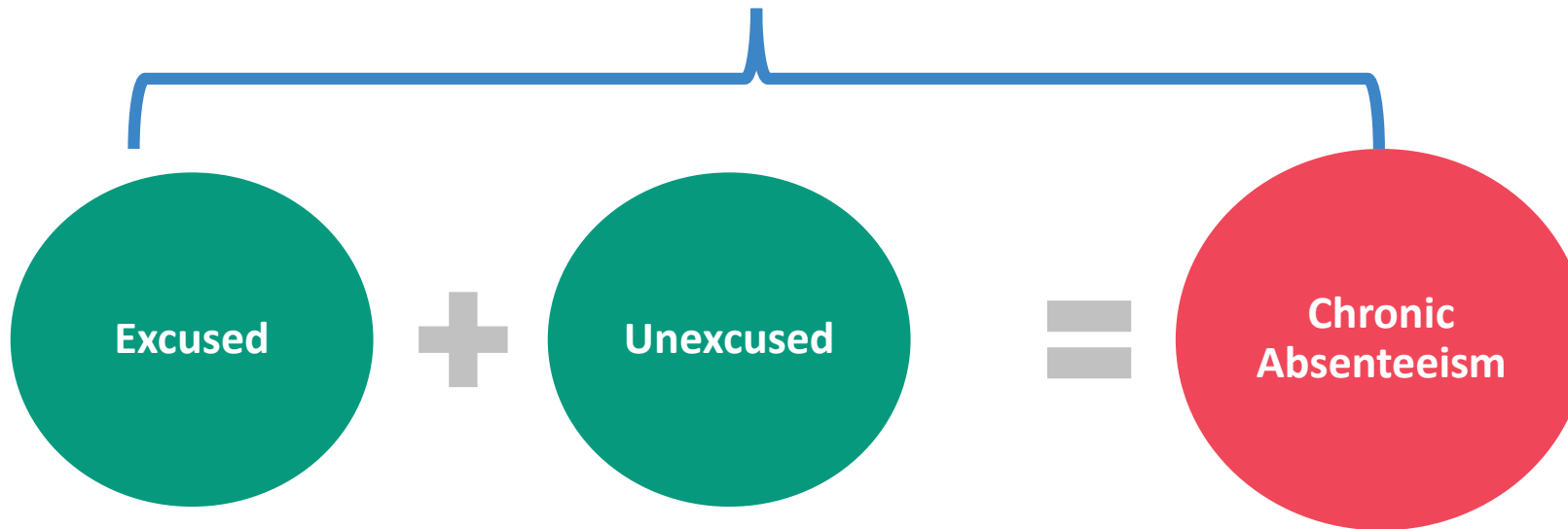
Question to ask yourself

- **Who Works on Attendance in your building?**
 - A. Just me – I'm amazing!
 - B. Attendance Secretary
 - C. Part of Student Support/Intervention Team
 - D. We have an Attendance Team

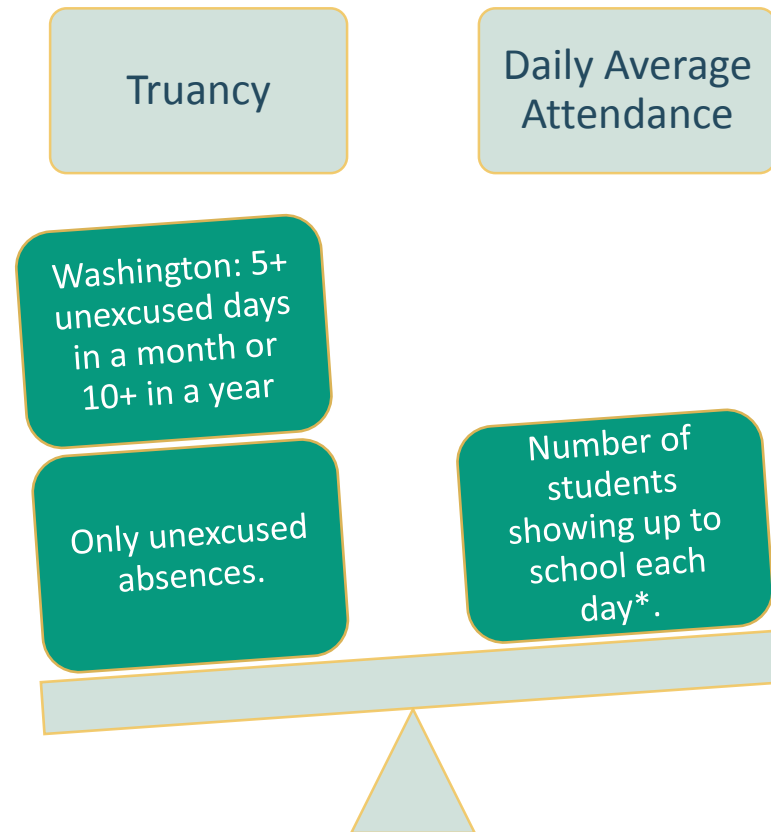


What is Chronic Absenteeism?

10% of school days



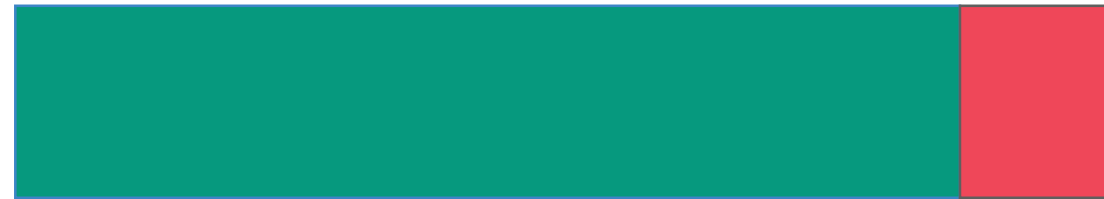
Which is Different From...



[*Chronic Elementary Absenteeism: A Problem Hidden in Plain Sight](#)



How is our state reporting Chronic Absence? Where are you?



88% Regularly
Attending

12%
Chronically
Absent

**Regular
Attendance**

**Chronic
Absence
Inverted**




Question of practice

How are you doing on Tier 1?

- A. We're really strong here
- B. We're ok for now
- C. Could be better
- D. Definitely needs work
- E. Don't know



Why did you start looking at chronic absence?

 2015-16 Grandview had 21.3% chronically absent students

 = 881 students

 We realized we needed to own the problem.



Foundation is Relationships



Consistent Policies & Procedures

Standardized
Common Set
of
Expectations

- Reporting of absences
- Practices and procedures



Start With Accurate Attendance Data

Friendly reminder for staff who have not yet taken attendance.



Skyward email-to staff members that haven't taken attendance by 9:30 to VP/secretaries



Attendance spot check to verify accuracy -- teams bring data to attendance huddle



Truancy Intelligence Dashboard Numeric View

| | | | | | |
|------|----------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Home | Action Board ▾ | Nav Board | Student File | Warning Letter | Truancy Intelligence ▾ |
|------|----------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|------------------------|

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Graphics View | Numeric View |
|---------------|---------------------|

| Truancy | Total | Actions | Total |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-------|
| <u>Warning Letters</u> | 311 | <u>Proposed by System</u> | 3,062 |
| <u>Attendance Contracts</u> | 61 | <u>Pending Actions</u> | 981 |
| <u>Referred to Truancy Officer</u> | 0 | <u>Action Taken</u> | 1,997 |

Referrals -> [REDACTED] HIGH SCHOOL -> Actions -> Pending Actions

Last refresh time 6/14/2018 9:26:41 PM

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| <u>Referrals</u> | Total Student Count | 360 |
|------------------|----------------------------|-----|

| Content | Student ID | Student Name | Recommendation | Proposed Date | Days | Grade |
|----------------|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|------|-------|
| <u>Court A</u> | 13 | ALVAREZ, LUIS - ESL;LI;SPED | Parent Conference | 03/30/2018 | 77 | 9 |
| | 15 | FERNANDEZ, FATIMA - LI | Parent Conference | 01/25/2018 | 141 | 9 |
| | 17 | LARA, EDITH - ESL;LI | Refer for Filing Petition | 04/17/2018 | 59 | 9 |
| | 17 | LARA, EDITH - ESL;LI | Parent Conference | 12/01/2017 | 196 | 9 |



Actions (Director) -> SMITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL -> Actions -> Pending Actions

Date: 10/7/2018 2:00:40 PM

| Student ID | ESL | LI | SPED | Recommendation | Proposed Date | Days | Grade |
|------------|-----|----|------|-----------------------|---------------|------|-------|
| 47501 | | LI | | Warning Letter | 10/05/2018 | 3 | K1 |
| 47501 | | LI | | Parent Conference | 10/03/2018 | 5 | K1 |
| 47032 | | | | Excuse Absence Letter | 10/04/2018 | 4 | P4 |
| 35441 | ESL | LI | SPED | Parent Conference | 10/05/2018 | 3 | 1 |
| 39858 | | | SPED | Warning Letter | 10/05/2018 | 3 | 1 |
| 42799 | ESL | LI | | Parent Conference | 10/03/2018 | 5 | 1 |
| 42799 | ESL | LI | | Excuse Absence Letter | 10/03/2018 | 5 | 1 |
| 42802 | ESL | LI | | Parent Conference | 10/03/2018 | 5 | 1 |
| 42802 | ESL | LI | | Excuse Absence Letter | 10/03/2018 | 5 | 1 |
| 45188 | ESL | LI | | Excuse Absence Letter | 10/05/2018 | 3 | 1 |
| 46506 | ESL | LI | | Parent Conference | 10/02/2018 | 6 | 1 |
| 46506 | ESL | LI | | Excuse Absence Letter | 10/02/2018 | 6 | 1 |
| 42874 | | LI | | Excuse Absence Letter | 10/03/2018 | 5 | 2 |
| 43113 | ESL | LI | | Parent Conference | 10/02/2018 | 6 | 2 |
| 28437 | | | SPED | Parent Conference | 10/05/2018 | 3 | 4 |
| 37097 | | LI | | Parent Conference | 10/03/2018 | 5 | 4 |
| 38234 | | LI | | Parent Conference | 10/04/2018 | 4 | 4 |
| 38419 | | LI | | Excuse Absence Letter | 10/03/2018 | 5 | 4 |
| 31488 | ESL | LI | | Parent Conference | 10/04/2018 | 4 | 5 |
| 36258 | | LI | | Parent Conference | 10/04/2018 | 4 | 5 |
| 36401 | ESL | LI | | Excuse Absence Letter | 10/05/2018 | 3 | 5 |



Getting Actionable Student Data: District Invested in Data System

Truancy Dropout Prevention System (Raawee)

Daily excused/ unexcused/ chronic dashboards
for attendance secretaries and administration

Proposed actions aligned to WA St. Attendance
requirements

Automates time intensive tasks

- *Attendance Letters, contracts for success*





Unexcused Absence Warning Letter

Sep/10/2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child , **34538**, has been absent from school without a proper excuse for **three or more days/part days** this school year. The following is a record of the dates your child has missed school without valid excuse:

08/30/2018, 08/31/2018, 09/04/2018, 09/05/2018, 09/06/2018, 09/07/2018

It is important that you understand our school policies and procedures, as well as Washington State Law, to ensure your child is successful in school. The state law for mandatory attendance, called the Becca Bill, requires children from age 8 to 17 to attend a public school, private school, or a district-approved home school program. Children who are 6 or 7 years old are not required to be enrolled in school. However, if parents enroll their 6 or 7 years old, the student must attend full-time. The state truancy law specifies that if a student is absent unexcused from school: the School/District is required to:



- After **five** unexcused absences in a month, the parent and school must enter a contract to improve the student's attendance. Or, the case can be referred to a Community Truancy Board.
- After **seven** unexcused absences in a month, or **ten** unexcused absences in an academic year, the school district may file truancy petitions with the juvenile court.

•If the student is not in compliance with a court order resulting from a truancy petition, the school is required to file a contempt motion. We are writing this letter to inform you about the law and the absences. We would like to resolve these attendance issues before such time as filing charges in the juvenile court would be necessary.

WHAT YOU CAN DO?

Set a regular bed time and morning routine. Don't let your student stay home unless they are truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home. Avoid appointments and extended trips when school is in session. Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.

If we can be of assistance in your effort to resolve these attendance issues and ensure the success of your child, please contact the school for a conference to build a plan.



Critical System Support: District Trainings

Prior to the
start of school:



| | | | |
|----|---------------------|----------|----|
| 24 | Parent Conference | 6 | 10 |
| 3 | Warning Notice | | 1 |
| 8 | Attendance Contract | <u>1</u> | 3 |
| 7 | Agreed Order | 1 | 2 |

[illegible]

Attendance Team Huddles

Norms

District Focus

What is our goal for attendance?

- Comparison Data from 2017-18 to 2018-19
- Excused
- Unexcused
- Tardies

Community Truancy Boards

Special Groups

- Education advocate ESD 105
- Drug/alcohol counselor
- Special Populations
- WISE TEAM YVFWC-M. H.

RaaWee (Data System)

- District data-Caseload breakdown-Admin/counselor and specialist



Student Details

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Date | 10/8/2018 |
| <u>Nay</u> Board Status | Warning Letters |

Demographic Information

| Student Name | | Guardian Name | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Student ID | 33401 | Relationship | Mother |
| Address | PO Box | Address | W WINE CNTY RD TRLR |
| City | GRANDVIEW | City | GRANDVIEW |
| State | WA | State | WA |
| <u>Zipcode</u> | 98930 | <u>Zipcode</u> | 98930 |
| Gender | Male | Gender | F |
| Age | 12 | Age | 29 |
| Date of Birth | May-2006 | Date of Birth | Nov-1988 |
| Email | | Email | 0312@gmail.com |
| Phone | | Phone | |
| Campus Name | GRANDVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL | Home Language | English |
| Grade | 7 | Student Type | LI;SPED |
| Date of Enrollment | 8/27/2018 12:00:00 AM | | |
| Race | White | | |



Intervention Data

Intervention Proposed

| Date | Interventions Proposed | Action Type | Absences Dates |
|------------|------------------------|-------------|---|
| 09/05/2018 | Parent Conference | PTM | 8/29/2018, 8/30/2018 |
| 09/06/2018 | Warning Letter | WL | 8/29/2018, 8/30/2018, 8/31/2018 |
| 09/13/2018 | Attendance Contract | AC | 8/29/2018, 8/30/2018, 8/31/2018, 9/6/2018, 9/10/2018 |
| 09/14/2018 | Agreed Order | AO | 8/29/2018, 8/30/2018, 8/31/2018, 9/6/2018, 9/10/2018, 9/11/2018 |

Intervention Provided

| Date | Interventions Provided | Comments |
|------------|------------------------------|--|
| 09/10/2018 | Warning Letters Generated | Warning Letter Generation By Sylvia Ledesma |
| 09/13/2018 | Parent Conference | Met with mom she will try to make sure student is in bed by 10:00 Incentives to improve attendance include switching medications based on dr's advice. or cell phone privilege will be taken away by mom By Dora Johns |
| 10/01/2018 | Monitor student for: Absence | Monitoring period starts From '10/01/2018' To '06/07/2019'. |



Unexcused Absence

| Year | Month | Day Absent | Type |
|-------------------------|-------|------------|------|
| 2018 | 8 | 29 | U |
| 2018 | 8 | 30 | W ** |
| 2018 | 8 | 31 | U |
| 2018 | 9 | 6 | W |
| 2018 | 9 | 10 | W |
| 2018 | 9 | 11 | W |
| Total Unexcused Absence | | 6 | |

Excused Absence

| Year | Month | Day Absent | Type |
|-----------------------|-------|------------|------|
| 2018 | 8 | 28 | E |
| 2018 | 9 | 4 | E |
| 2018 | 9 | 5 | E ** |
| 2018 | 9 | 7 | E |
| Total Excused Absence | | 4 | |

Approx. Lost Instr. Mins.

3,500



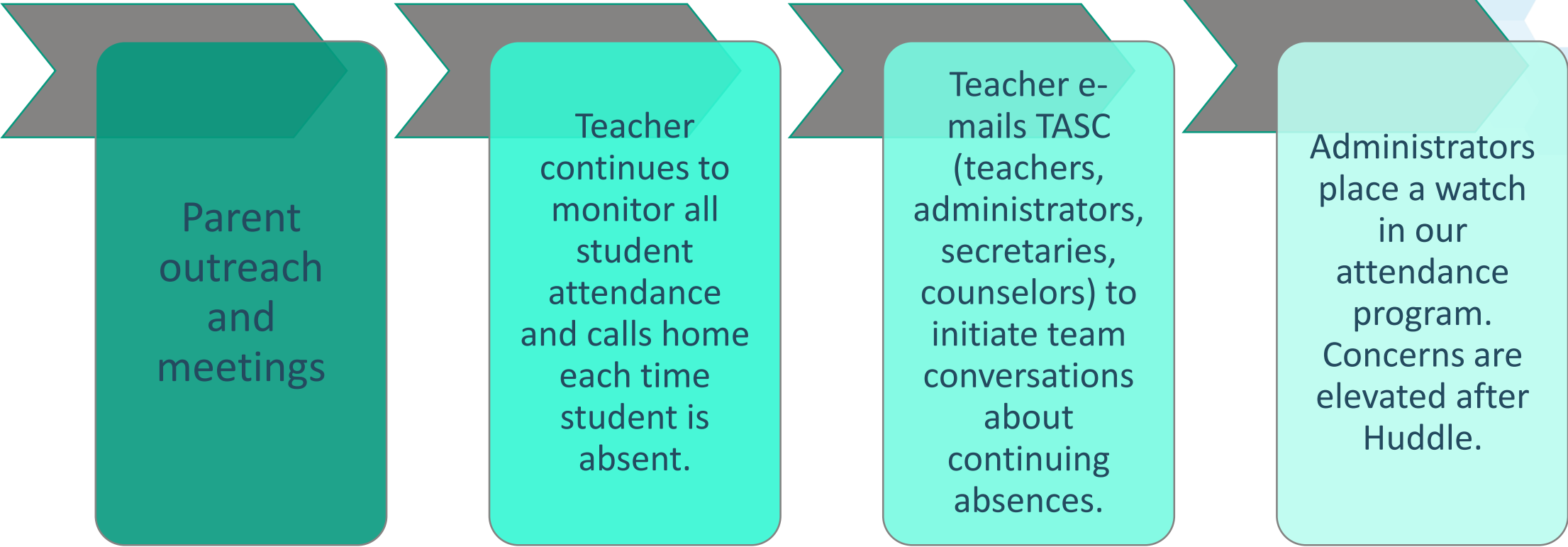
Additional Notes



| Date | Comments |
|-----------------------|--|
| 9/10/2018 10:00:00 AM | Good Morning, student was scheduled for truancy review hearing 9/25/18. Mom called and said she was unable to make it due to having doctor's appointment for her monthly infusions. I asked mom how things were going with student at school, she said she is having trouble sending student to school because they do not have clean clothes. I encouraged mom to contact the school and let them know what is going on and I would follow up with them via email. Checked with DAC to see who attorney is but one has not been assigned yet. Will give Vilma the file to get Karen the packet ASAP. Mom was ok with 10/02/18 for court date. By Tony Torres |
| 9/10/2018 12:00:00 PM | Per mom-he is having problems in first period?? Per mom-she said that she borrowed money for washing clothes- I also offered for her to bring her clothing GMS to wash- we would provide soap. By Tony Torres |
| 9/10/2018 12:00:00 PM | Mom stated that she will be coming in to meet with GMS to talk about students first period. By Tony Torres |
| 9/10/2018 12:00:00 PM | I have been leaving several messages at 831-7442. No response. By Sylvia Ledesma |
| 9/11/2018 12:00:00 PM | called mom to schedule an Attendance conf. NA but left a message to call me back By Leti Espinoza |
| 9/13/2018 12:00:00 PM | 9/13/2018 student called mom but her voice mail was full. 9/13/2018 student's mom showed up to drop student off for school so I asked her if she could do the Attendance conf. and she agreed By Leti Espinoza |
| 9/19/2018 12:00:00 PM | On 9/17 student, mom and student's advocacy team met with GMS support team for a re-engagement meeting. Student did not want to go to his first 2 classes even after the GMS support team and his advocacy group walked him to class. An agreement between GMS and student and mom created that if he came to school the next day he could maintain his 6 period schedule. Student did not come to school Tuesday 9/18 so his schedule was modified to a 4 period schedule. On 9/18 mom did NOT call to inform us of his absence. GMS then called mom to check on student. A meeting was set for 9/19 with student, mom and child advocate to go over new 4 period schedule. Both mom and student walked out of the school bc they wanted to have the 6th period schedule back. Later that day they went to the dist. office and spoke to administration, where they agreed to the 4 period schedule with the caveat that if he attends his 4 periods for 10 days straight -- we can get his 6th period schedule back. By Dora Johns |



Teachers are critical



Parent outreach and meetings

Teacher continues to monitor all student attendance and calls home each time student is absent.

Teacher e-mails TASC (teachers, administrators, secretaries, counselors) to initiate team conversations about continuing absences.

Administrators place a watch in our attendance program. Concerns are elevated after Huddle.



Community Partners



Awareness Raising



"Strive for 5" Attendance Awareness Campaign

Partnership
with City for
August
National Night
Out

Community-wide Strive
for 5 partnership with
area business partners:

- City
- Grandview Community Center
- Extra Mile Student Center
- Churches
- Chamber of Commerce

Banners posted
throughout Grandview:

- Schools
- City Facilities
- Extra Mile Student Center
- High Traffic Intersections
- Parks
- City
- School Electronic Reader-boards



"Strive for 5" Attendance Awareness Campaign



Open Houses, District Parent Nights, Student Led Conferences, Chamber Meetings, Rotary



Weekly campaign materials from OSPI, Attendance Works! and TDPS



Sandwich displays at all schools with attendance messages for parents



Positive reinforcements – Bikes, PBIS, extended lunches, off-campus privileges



Public Awareness campaign through parent emails, reader-boards, Facebook, Twitter and phone call system



Incentives & Defining Good Attendance



P.A.C.E



Strive for Five



Student tracker



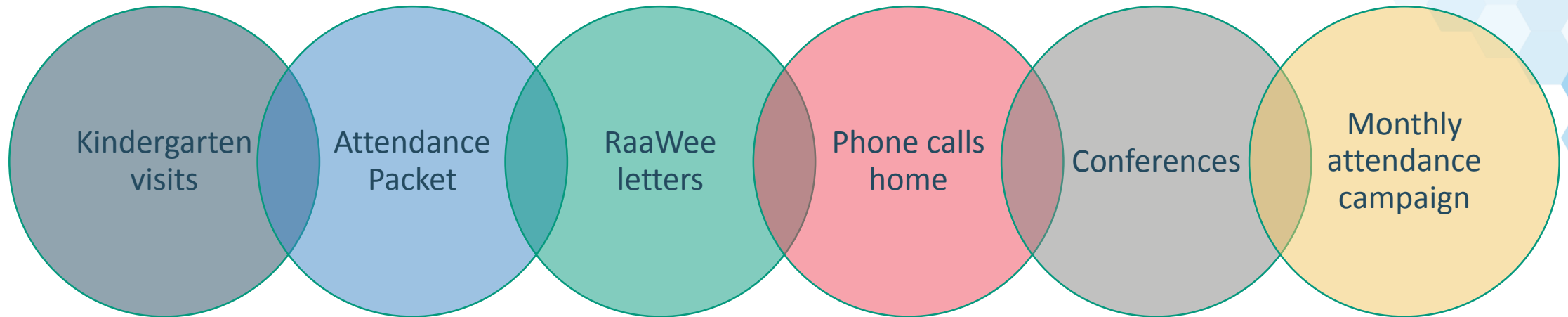
Attendance
Ribbon Race



Extended/extra
recess



Family Education & Partnership



Other Cool Efforts We're Proud Of...



Attendance Van picks up
truant students and is
used for home visits



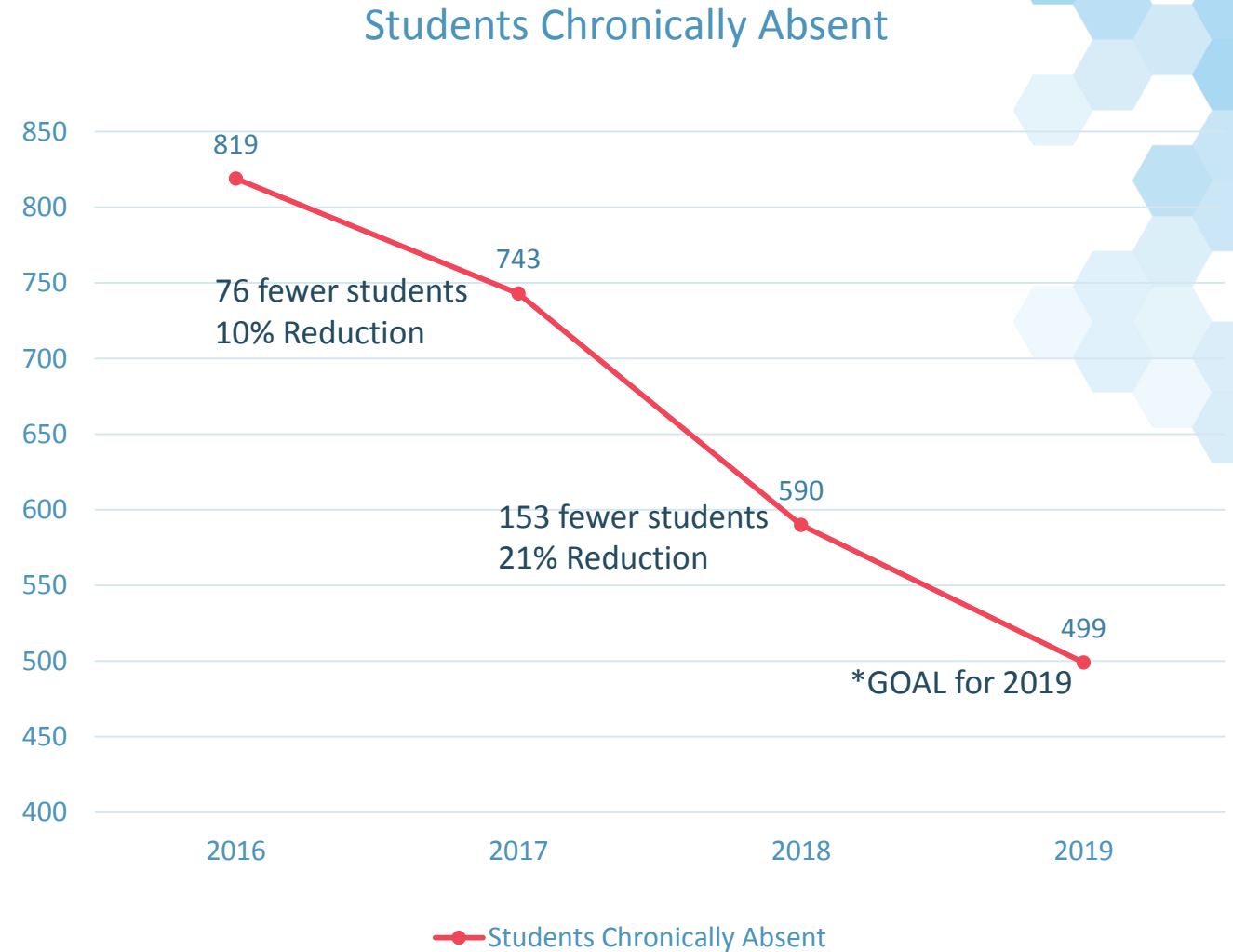
Home visits designed to
remove barriers for
students with significant
attendance gaps



Our Results

In two years we have had a 28% reduction in chronic absence.

Our goal this next year is to be under 500 students. A 39% drop in three years.



What's Your Why?



Questions

- **What is one major takeaway you have from today's workshop?**

