



## Understanding and Responding to School Refusing Behavior

Discuss with the audience patterns of School Refusing Behavior (SRB) and truancy. Next, a tiered system a school or district could use to address SRB. Tier 1: attendance messaging, but more importantly school climate. Clear attendance policy. Tier 2: attendance plan with student, guardians and outside provider (support family with finding a provider if needed) ROI and trusting relationship necessary. Diagnosis. (I envision a triangle with school, guardians, and provider in each corner, with child/student in the middle). Relationship/Team approach a must. Avoid triangulation. School Refusal Assessment (Kearney). Tier 3: Fear ladder/Exposure Pathway, 504/IEP, when to use Truancy (important piece). Define success, plan for addressing externalized behavior/safety plan. Common pitfalls, avoiding slip and relapse.