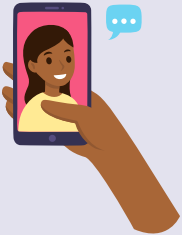


Attendance Matters - Connection is Key

Use these tips and strategies to get students consistently attending school and having meaningful engagement during distance learning.

Get students engaged (who have been hard to reach)



- Approach students with empathy and positivity, relate to them, understand them, hear their story, validate their feelings. Never make them feel like they are in trouble.
- Calling/texting their family members, calling/texting them directly, and joining their Zoom class to talk to them when I can't reach them by phone.
- Never give up on making contact with the student, whether by phone or Zoom.
- Express concern for the students and ask them how you can help them; tell them you care, you support them, you want to help them, you are available to them for any questions or support that they need related to school.
- Call all the numbers on their contacts and leave voicemails and text messages; call multiple times per week, at different times of the day. Ask for the student's cell phone number, if they have one.

Keep students engaged (after initial contact)



- Continue to: Approach students with empathy, relate to them, understand them, hear their story, Validate their feelings.
- Continue to: Express concern for the students and ask them how you can help them; tell them you care, you support them, you want to help them, you are available to them for any questions or support that they need related to school.
- Continue to: Celebrate small wins. Maybe they went to all their classes but advisory that day. Let them know that you saw that they tried and are trying. Maybe you noticed they are submitting their work and their grades are going up.
- Accountability: Tell them you are monitoring their attendance and that you will call them to offer help.
- Answer the phone when they call, send text message responses when they text.
- Call/text them when they are doing good and when they appear to need support.
- Give positive reinforcement regularly, even for the little things. Be their cheerleader; tell them they can do it and that you believe in them.
- Build a relationship with them; be someone that they can count on to help them.

Get families engaged (who have been hard to reach)



- Call all the numbers on their contacts and leave voicemails and text messages; call multiple times per week, at different times of the day.
- Approach families with empathy, relate to them, understand them, hear their story, validate their feelings. Never make them feel like they are in trouble.
- Express concern for their child and ask how you can help them; tell them you care, you support them, you want to help them, you are available to them for any questions or support that they need related to school.
- Call to give them positive reinforcement; tell them positive things about their child, even the little things.

Keep families engaged (after initial contact)



- Continue to: Approach families with empathy and positivity, relate to them, understand them, hear their story, validate their feelings.
- Continue to: Express concern for the students and ask them how you can help them; tell them you care, you support them, you want to help them, you are available to them for any questions or support that they need related to school.
- Answer the phone when they call, send text message responses when they text.
- Give positive reinforcement regularly, even for the little things.
- Build a relationship with them; be someone that they can count on to answer questions related to school and to support their child.
- Listen! Sometimes parents just need someone to express their feelings and concerns. Provide validation for them as well. They are the ones trying to make sure their student is going to class and sometimes that is not an easy task.
- Follow up on barriers. Check if barriers have been resolved or need more support.
- Acknowledge the effort of the student and family.

Guidance to individuals, and families



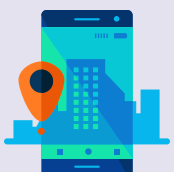
- Approach families holistically, using positivity to highlight and encourage students and/or parents' strengths.
- Encourage parents and students to discuss how they are doing and feeling.
- Listen with empathy and compassion to parents and students concerns.
- Examine issues: social or behavioral problems and refer students to intervention teams, psychologists, and other services, as needed.
- Identify issues affecting school performance.
- Help students and families define goals and develop a plan of action.
- Help students develop skills needed for success.

School/community resources and services



- Approach families holistically, using positivity to highlight and encourage students and/or parents' strengths.
- Encourage parents and students to discuss how they are doing and feeling.
- Listen with empathy and compassion to parents and students concerns.
- Examine issues: social or behavioral problems and refer students to intervention teams, psychologists, and other services, as needed.
- Identify issues affecting school performance.
- Help students and families define goals and develop a plan of action.
- Help students develop skills needed for success.

Technology



- Have an IT person/team who can support with immediate needs and more systematic concerns
- Have a system for looking at tech issue trends and address them

Scheduling



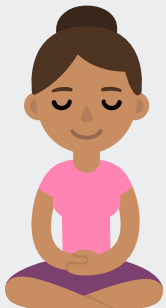
- Provide access and navigation tutorial walkthrough of any platforms used (Zoom call with student and send video of tutorial).
- Send schedule for the week to parents and students.
- Provide scheduled reminders for classes.
- Provide wake-up calls.

Academic



- Connect student with teachers and/or academic counselor.
- Help students navigate Student Information System and/or Learning Management System to find missing assignments.
- Help prioritize assignments.

Wellness



- Provide Regional Health Guides that list free or low-cost medical clinics near schools (also should include nearby COVID testing/vaccination location).
- Provide resources for dental or vision services
- For housing difficulties refer to the appropriate school personnel.

