

# Males of Color Initiatives in America's Great City Schools: Addressing Chronic Absenteeism

Follow Through on the Pledge: As of January 15, 2016

COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS

Males of Color Initiatives in America's Great City Schools  
By the  
Council of the Great City Schools

City School System	Addressed chronic absenteeism (4)
Anchorage	Continue attendance policy implementation; make phone calls to student homes during absences; and continue school business partner recognition of students with good attendance. Track results.
Cincinnati	M.O.R.E. clubs incentivize good attendance and GPA with field trips and outings.
Clark County (Las Vegas)	Working collaboratively with City on Downtown Achieves (DA) Schools to expand a successful attendance incentive pilot across on DA schools. The goal of the City and District is a 50% increase in the number of students who miss less than 10 days in DA elementary schools.
Cleveland	<p style="text-align: center;">Launched the “Get to School: You Can Make It” campaign. Partnering with the Cleveland Browns foundation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Adopt and implement promising and proven approaches to reducing absenteeism.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Expand use of Planning Centers at each school to reduce suspensions with attendance liaisons.</p>
Columbus	<p style="text-align: center;">Has developed an Attendance Tool Kit with attendance-related policies and information. Have reduced tardiness and truancy by 76% and suspensions due to tardiness and truancy by 36%.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Provide in-school immunizations, school nurses, health screenings, and chronic disease management for students with chronic conditions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Has a District Wellness Initiative for students.</p>
Dayton	Monitor attendance and discipline data monthly.

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Denver	<p>Implement early warning system and target resources for immediate intervention.</p> <p>Expand mentoring</p> <p>Increase advisories that match students with caring adults to support social and emotional growth.</p>
Duval County	<p>Built the Performance Matters data base with an early warning system that includes attendance needs. Attendance plan and policies will identify students with excessive absences for early intervention.</p> <p>Shifting all truancy officers from the district office to school sites to work directly with students and parents.</p> <p>Provide quarterly reports to the board on attendance and annual reports on achievement gaps.</p>
Fort Worth	<p>FWISD has established a comprehensive truancy program in collaboration with city resources. Stay in School Coordinators are assigned to each high school feeder pattern to provide outreach support for students with excessive absences. These staff members maintain communication between school and parents and council students with school resources to keep students attending school on a regular basis.</p>
Hillsborough County	<p>Continue implementing and monitoring the Student Success Program in all targeted middle and high schools with focus on reducing achievement gap, lowering suspensions, increasing attendance, and reducing dropouts.</p>
Kansas City	<p>Have set up truancy intervention efforts to reduce absenteeism with Males of Color, e.g., SEL support, Knock-N-Talk, Attendance Ambassadors, Truancy Court, Success Court, letters to parents</p>
Long Beach	<p>Continue efforts to encourage and incentive attendance and meeting attendance goals. Currently attendance is 97% districtwide.</p>
Louisville	<p>Strengthen Equity Institutes to address disengaged students and teachers. These institutes are led by school officials and local and national experts.</p>
Memphis	<p>Launched the “Represent Everyday” campaign with the Memphis Grizzlies to develop a robo-call to students about attending school.</p>

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Miami-Dade County	Provide hourly case workers to follow up on the truancy referral process with the attendance office for Males of Color.
Milwaukee	<p>Partnering with the Milwaukee Bucks to encourage students to attend school every day.</p> <p>Began a new attendance initiative based on PBIS/RTI that trained over 400 staff members. Are using district attendance data to identify and support students with attendance issues.</p>
Orange County	<p>Convened a committee to study attendance of students who were chronically absent.</p> <p>Established monitoring procedures to routinely evaluate student attendance and intervene before students become chronically absent.</p> <p>Create a multi-pronged prevention and intervention system to decrease absenteeism</p> <p>Establish incentives for good or perfect attendance.</p> <p>Meet with teams of social workers to establish individualized intervention systems for students whose attendance does not improve.</p> <p>Monitor and evaluate intervention systems for effectiveness.</p> <p>Monitor students who are chronically absent.</p>
Philadelphia	<p>Analyzed data on the link between attendance and dropping out, state test scores, and graduation</p> <p>Created attendance awareness campaign focused on the 50% of students who miss the most days.</p> <p>Target communications to parents and guardians about importance of school attendance.</p>

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Portland	<p>Continue participating in Attendance Matters with All Hands Raised partners SUN, Department of Human Services—providing onsite social workers.</p> <p>Establishing attendance protocols and attendance toolkit with training on their use.</p> <p>Expanding attendance efforts to entire Roosevelt Cluster and beyond.</p> <p>Have hired attendance data analysts.</p> <p>Have created Student Attendance Response Teams to identify and support students who attend school less than 90 percent of the time.</p>
Providence	<p>Improve data collection on student attendance.</p> <p>Target attendance strategies first on students in grades k to 3.</p> <p>Enlist community partners like city and county government, the United Way, and others to make home visits to residences of chronically absent students.</p> <p>Focus the work of parent liaisons at each school on attendance.</p> <p>Continue community impact campaign linking attendance and poor achievement.</p>
Sacramento	<p>Chronic Absenteeism Task Force is working to reduce chronic absenteeism by implementing interventions, providing professional development and build capacity.</p>
Toledo	<p>Started the Truancy Prevention Program</p> <p>PBIS</p> <p>Pathways to Success.</p>