Improve Attendance and Reduce Chronic Absenteeism

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Learning Outcomes

- Describe the unique needs of students who are chronically absent and their families.
- Reflect on current practices for addressing attendance concerns.
- Identify factors shown to successfully improve attendance.
- Employ at least one new strategy to maximize your impact.
Chronic Absenteeism

- Missing 10 percent or more of the school year, regardless of reason
- In a 180-day academic calendar, this equates to 18+ days, or 2 days per month
Student and Family Needs

- Socioeconomic factors
- Health complications
- Anxiety
- Few connections/lack of belonging at school
- Academic deficits
- De-emphasis on education as a value
- Low school motivation
Protective Factors, Effective Strategies

1. School, family, community partnership
2. Attendance goal-setting + incentive structure
3. Personalized relationship
4. Extracurricular activities
5. Referral to counselor
6. Small groups
7. Social-Emotional Learning
8. Attendance graph displays
Tier 2 Target Groups

Average Number of Absences

- **Year 1**: Baseline 26, Results 16, 38% increase
- **Year 2**: Baseline 21, Results 14, 33% increase
- **Year 3**: Baseline 21, Results 13, Projected Results
The Role of the School Counselor

Repeat after me, “I am not running an attendance program. I am contributing my counseling expertise and leadership skills in a collaborative approach to support students’ academic, social-emotional, and career development.”

Remember your mission and vision.
Student and Family Needs

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A Unique Approach

Students are matched to a job with realistic world-of-work components like:

- An offer letter and agreement
- Timesheets and paychecks
- Mentorship
- “Professional development”
Getting Started

You’re invited to be a part of the Stonehouse Job Corps Mentoring Program!

This program gives students the opportunity to get engaged at school through a short 5-minute daily duty. Participating students and their families and teachers report benefits to school motivation, self-confidence, responsibility, and leadership development. Our results also show this program supports attendance and decreases discipline referrals at Stonehouse.

The student’s role is to clock in with their job coach and perform their job each day, earning checks to spend on or save toward incentives! Job coaches supervise students in their job, get to know them, and encourage them as they strive toward their goals in school. As the parent/guardian, you support your child by making sure s/he arrives on time each day and asking them to share their Job Corps experiences with you. You can even connect incentives at home to your child’s job earnings at school if you want.

Job Placement: 
Job Coach: 
Schedule: 

What’s your goal this year? I want to earn $_________ in Job Corps (missing no more than _________ days of school).
Mentorship

tinyurl.com/jobcorpsmaterials
“Professional Development”

Six 30-minute group counseling sessions during the year:

1. Being a part of a group
2. Recognizing our unique contributions and how we positively impact the school
3. The snack factory simulation
4. Taking initiative to solve problems, advocating for self
5. Coping strategies
6. Reflecting
Challenges

- Time commitment
- Staff buy-in
- Consistency

Strategies

- Start small & collaborate
- Share the data
- Streamline & prepare
Thank you!
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