

Key Efforts to Reduce Chronic Absenteeism

1. Increase Staff to Support the Reduction of Chronic Absenteeism.

- NHPS has hired five additional Drop-out Prevention Specialists increasing the total from 15 to 20. This reduces the dramatically spiked workload and allows our DPS specialists to engage deeply with school-based attendance teams to support students and connect with families.
- Parent Liaisons, Family Resource Center Coordinators, and Family Care Coordinators are also trained to reach out to families.
- Student attendance is organized into multi-level tiers so that attendance teams can implement targeted strategies:

2. Expand Outreach to Families by implementing NHPS Family Outreach Initiative.

- This program aims to increase outreach and engagement with NHPS families --specifically those whose children have attendance concerns.
- Over 125 NHPS Teachers and staff are hired to work after school to help address the crisis levels of chronic absenteeism by expanding outreach efforts to families and implementing an evidence-based relational outreach approach
- Participants partake in mandatory training offered through the CT Department of Education's Learner Engagement Attendance Program and the NHPS Office of Youth, Family, and Community Engagement.
- Teachers and staff are trained to use a range of strategies that include: Phone calls, virtual meetings (Zoom/Google Meets), and appointments with families at locations such as schools, libraries, or other mutually agreed-upon places where teachers and families can feel comfortable building relationships and working to re-engage young people with their school community.

- Teachers and staff are trained in family visits to a parent or guardian to strengthen the school-family relationship positively and relationally.
- The conversation focuses on families' strengths, capabilities, and aspirations for their children. The visitors are there to learn from families, not to enforce attendance policies or sanctions.

3. **Expand Community Partnerships**

- NHPS is expanding Youth Connect to intensively engage trusted community partners who can support the district's students who extremely chronically absent
- Over ten community partners are being vetted for Board of Education review and consideration. Partnerships will increase throughout the year.

4. **Community-wide Campaign: Countdown to Success: The 90-day challenge:**

- Each school has a SMART goal to reduce their chronic absenteeism rate by 12% from their 2nd marking period rate.
- Schools will reassess and strengthen their current strategies to improve attendance, including academic and Social-Emotional engagement, and student incentives including field trips, celebrations, festivities, awards, and prizes.
- Community Partners will sign-up to support the campaign with incentives, services, and donations.
- The campaign will culminate with a Districtwide Award Attendance Ceremony

5. **Continuous Attendance Monitoring:**

- Weekly Meetings of Districtwide Attendance Team in collaboration with CSDE
- Bi-weekly updates of school-by-school attendance data, demonstrating progress and challenge areas are distributed to school and district leadership

Impact:

Family Outreach/Home visits: 1, 940 (One Thousand Nine Hundred Forty)
Chronic Absenteeism Rate Reduction: From June 30, 2022 ---58% to January 27, 2022 ---39.7%