

Here + Healthy



HEALTHY SCHOOLS
CAMPAIGN

CALL TO ACTION

Nationwide, a staggering number of children are chronically absent. While the causes are multi-fold, one stands out as especially significant: student health. Taking action to address health-related chronic absenteeism can have a powerful impact on students' academic success and well-being for a lifetime!

Healthy Schools Campaign and Attendance Works are calling on partners across the country to sign on to the Here + Healthy campaign to raise awareness about the connection between chronic absenteeism and health.

By signing on to Here + Healthy partners commit to:

- Educate their networks about the inclusion of chronic absenteeism in state and local report cards,
- Use data to understand the key health-related causes of chronic absenteeism at the local and state levels,
- Raise their voices about the critical role that student health issues play in keeping children out of school, and
- Share the proven solutions that can ensure children are in school, healthy and ready to learn.

Chronic absenteeism—most commonly defined as missing 10 percent or more of school days for any reason, excused or unexcused—detracts from learning and is a proven early warning sign of academic risk and school dropout.

Fortunately there are many evidence-based interventions that can address the health-related causes of chronic absenteeism. But implementing them requires decision makers at all levels—from parents to principals, all the way to state education officers—to use data to understand the health-related causes of chronic absence, demand appropriate solutions, and put political will and funding behind them. Making sure that these groups understand the connection between health, attendance and learning is an essential first step.

This fall, states will release their new school report cards under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and, for the first time, chronic absence rates will be included on all state and local report cards. These report cards hold schools accountable to the public by providing families and the community with important information about each public school. The new school report cards present an important opportunity to mobilize stakeholders across many sectors, and raise awareness about the connection between learning and health.

To sign your organization's name to the Here + Healthy campaign, or to find out more, visit hereandhealthy.org.