

Chronic Absenteeism Strategic Action Group Snapshot of Accomplishments 2014-15

Purpose: To improve attendance in Connecticut schools by: (1) serving as the centralizing force for existing initiatives and promising new approaches to achieve measurable better result; and (2) promoting statewide coordination and communication among critical partners involved in “turning the curve.”

Data Issues

- Public reporting of attendance data disaggregated by grade, race, free/reduced lunch, ELL and Special Education
- Developed and disseminated Alliance District Data Analysis Profile Reports
- Partnered with the Connecticut Data Collaborative to initiate attendance data mapping pilot project
- Continued exploration of consistent attendance definitions for data gathering and reporting

Best Practices – Building Capacity

- Focused the Spring 2015 Alliance District Convening on attendance and featured Attendance Works
- Conducted initial structured conversations with targeted communities and local United Ways
- Interviewed Alliance Districts on their own “stories behind the curve” for inventory of best practices
 - Presentations at conferences/meetings, e.g., Faith, Families & Schools Conference, Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap; Discovery Communities Peer Exchange & Learning Meeting

*Keeping all
Students in
School &
Engaged*

Engage Strategic Partners

- Expansion of membership to include Office of Early Childhood as a key Planning Team member
- Partnered with Governor’s Prevention Partnership to promote mentoring as an intervention to improve attendance
- Continued membership review to engage key strategic partners

Report Card – Turning the Curve

- Secured State Board of Education resolution requiring chronic absence action plans for Alliance Districts
- Included chronic absenteeism as an indicator in the new Connecticut State Department of Education enhanced Accountability System
- Promoted chronic absence through presentations, reports and media coverage
- Introduced the Chronic Absence e-Bulletin