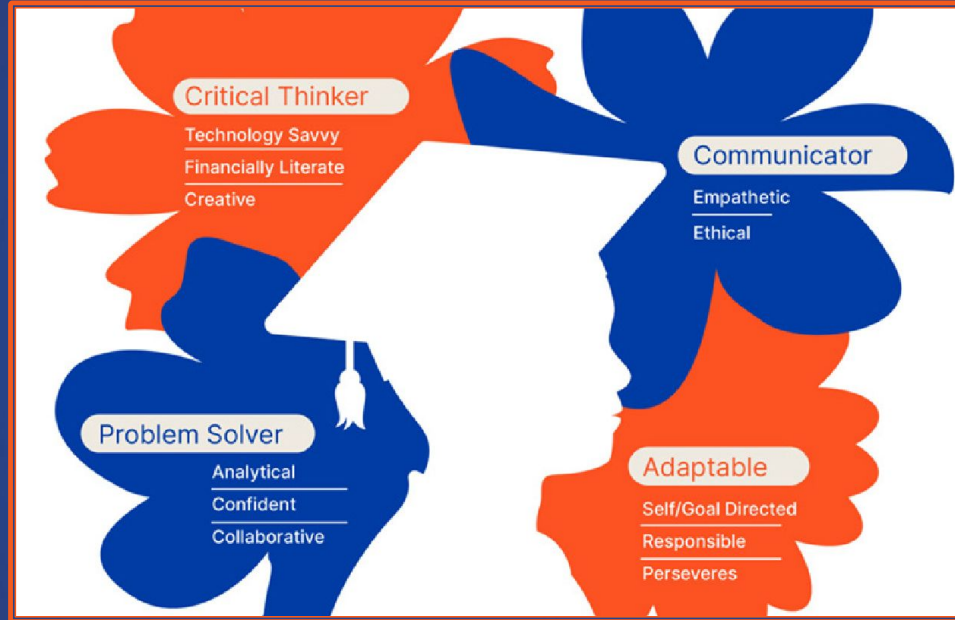# Graduates In Bloom

Bloomfield Public Schools Student Attendance Toolkit
Board of Education Curriculum Committee
October 22, 2024

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Overview

Purpose
To inform the Board of Education Curriculum Committee on the district's student attendance data and improvement efforts.

Process
Review BPS Student Attendance Toolkit, district historical data, and goals.

Payoff
Understand and support district student attendance efforts.

Why?

Consistent and regular attendance is essential for student growth and lifelong success, leading to higher graduation rates, lower dropout rates, increased college attendance, and better job prospects.

Research shows that chronic absenteeism—missing 10% or more of school days—is a risk factor associated with a variety of negative academic and social outcomes including difficulty learning to read by third grade, lower academic performance in middle school, and increased dropout rates.

(Attendance Works, 2018)

Academics

Instruction

Data Teams

Focus Walks

Professional Practice

PD Pathways

Educator Evaluation

Leadership Development

Culture and Climate

Attendance

Systems

Stakeholder Surveys

Portrait of a Graduate

- Critical Thinker
- Communicator
- Problem Solver
- Adaptable

District Priorities

Holistic Accountability

Rigorous Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Positive School Climate

Family and Community Engagement

Focus on Student Attendance

BPS

BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

STUDENT ATTENDANCE TOOLKIT

Created July 26, 2024

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- Communication
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🔖 **Attendance Team Best Practices Checklist**

Before

☐ **Start with a Team:** Assemble a team. Consider including School Nurse, Counselor, Social Worker, Administrative Support Staff, SPED Staff, and Teachers. Members should reflect the diverse perspectives of
☐ your student demographics.
☐ **Protect Time:** Having a regular cadence of attendance meetings for the team is key. This could be a standalone attendance meeting or part of an already existing structure.

During

Agenda

☐ Establish group norms
☐ Define roles and responsibilities
☐ Establish a standard meeting agenda. As the team leader, the principal sets the parameters for the team members, and either serves as the team facilitator or identifies another skilled facilitator who will serve as the attendance team leader Sample agenda

Data-Driven Decision Making

☐ Assess the number of students requiring early intervention and those needing intensive support, as well as student level data.
☐ Examine data by school, grade, and student group, identify areas that need more attention
  ★ What trends are we seeing when comparing demographics? Is one demographic outperforming others? Is there one demographic that has a higher absenteeism rate than others?
  ★ Is there a specific area of town we should look into based on data? Is there a need for more transportation for our students? Can we assist families that might need transportation?
  ★ Are students not attending school on a given day of the week? What's happening on that day?
  ★ Do we have programming for days which are impacted by attendance?

Understanding Absence Reasons

☐ Identify root causes for student absences

Planning for Interventions

☐ In planning for interventions, begin by exploring potential strategies tailored to address the root cause.
☐ Once you have brainstormed intervention ideas, evaluate these interventions considering feasibility, required resources, and potential impact on attendance improvement.
☐ Next prioritize strategies based on impact and your team's ability to implement them effectively. This collaborative approach ensures that the interventions chosen are not only practical but also aligned with your team's strengths and resources, ultimately leading to more successful attendance outcomes.

**Outline the steps needed to implement each strategy**

☐ Once you've chosen which strategies to pursue, document a plan for implementation including what, who, when, how?

AFTER

Establish when and how you will assess the success of each strategy

☐ What data will you collect and review to ensure it works for every student group as well as overall?
☐ When will you collect and review it?
☐ How will you decide whether to adopt, expand, adapt, or abandon the intervention if it doesn't work?
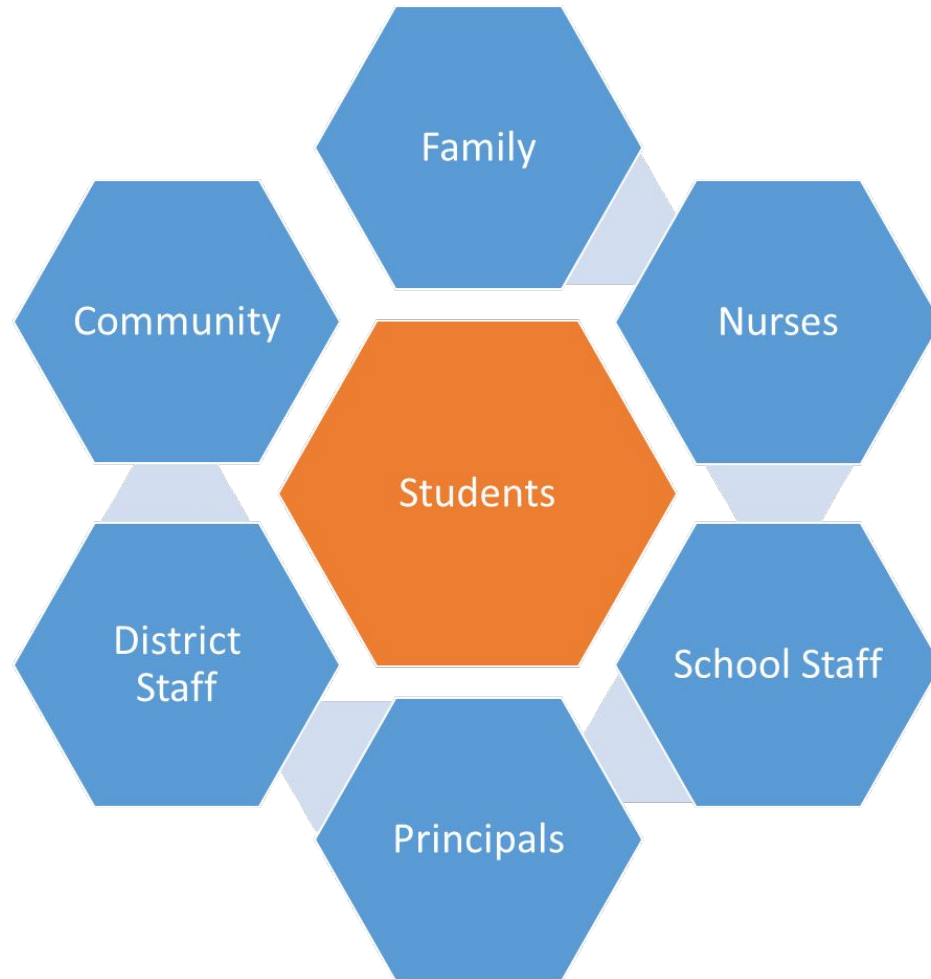
Communication

Communication Strategies for Attendance Improvement
Effective communication is crucial in promoting consistent student attendance. Both school-level and district-level communication play significant roles in this effort.

School-Level Communication:
1. Personalized Outreach
2. Attendance Letters
3. Attendance Robocalls
4. Apptegy Reinforcement

District-Level Communication:
1. Apptegy
2. Monthly Letter Updates to Families
3. Monthly Email to all Staff
4. Community Outreach
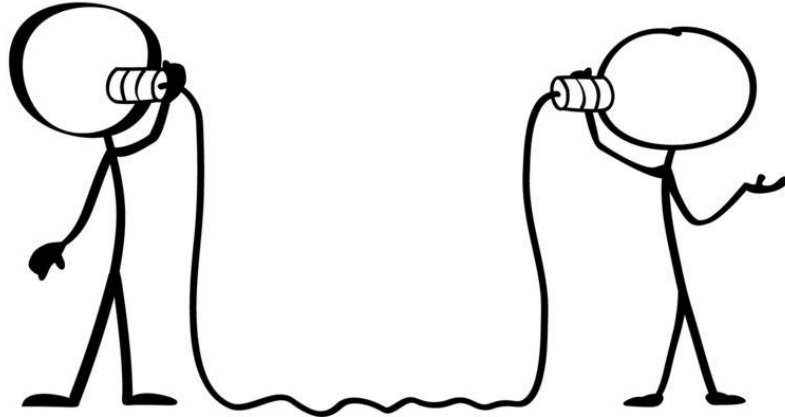
Attendance Definitions

Chronic Absenteeism:

"a child who is enrolled in a school under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education and whose total number of absences at any time during a school year is equal to or greater than ten per cent of the total number of days that such student has been enrolled at such school during such school year;"

Defined in CGS 10-198c

Truancy:

"a child age five to eighteen, inclusive, who is enrolled in a public or private school and has four unexcused absences from school in any one month or ten unexcused absences from school in any school year."

Defined in CGS 10-198a

Chronic Absenteeism

	Actuals							Goals	
	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	YTD 2024-2025	2024-2025	2025-2026
District (K-12)	8.1%	10.9%	17.3%	20.4%	18.1%	17.1%	14.6%	15.0%	12.0%
District (PK-12)	12.2%	14.2%	21.4%	24.4%	22.2%	19.2%	16.0%	20.0%	15.0%
BHS	5.7%	7.9%	13.1%	20.1%	13.4%	14.3%	17.3%	11.0%	8.0%
GEMS	9.0%	20.8%	23.7%	33.3%	29.1%	28.8%	29.7%	19.0%	15.0%
CAMS	8.3%	8.7%	16.2%	19.2%	18.3%	13.8%	9.4%	10.0%	6.0%
CAIS	6.3%	6.7%	10.8%	14.2%	14.2%	13.8%	9.0%	10.0%	6.0%
MES	8.2%	12.6%	14.3%	14.7%	16.7%	13.4%	6.0%	10.0%	6.0%
LLA (K-2)	10.0%	10.6%	24.2%	19.5%	17.4%	15.6%	13.3%	13.0%	10.0%
LLA (PK)	■■■	■■■	■■■	■■■	50.0%	11.1%	5.6%	13.0%	10.0%
LLA (All)	10.0%	10.6%	24.2%	19.5%	19.1%	15.3%	12.7%	13.0%	10.0%
WECMS	37.7%	35.4%	47.6%	51.2%	48.4%	36.2%	24.1%	29.0%	20.0%
Steps to Success	8.3%	14.3%	37.5%	23.5%	26.7%	19.1%	12.5%	16.0%	10.0%
State (K-12 Only)	10.4%	12.2%	19.0%	23.7%	20.0%	17.7%		5.0%	5.0%

Data as of October 17, 2024

District Goal: 95% or more of students will have an attendance rate of 92% or higher

School	Total Students with Attendance Rate of 92% or higher	Total Number of Students	Year to Date % Attendance Rate of 92% or higher	2023-2024 % Attendance Rate of 92% or higher
BHS	383	525	73.0%	78.1%
GEMS	105	175	60.0%	65.5%
CAMS	170	203	83.7%	78.8%
CAIS	181	211	85.8%	82.0%
MES	162	183	88.5%	79.9%
Laurel (All)	201	252	79.8%	79.8%
Laurel (K-2)	187	234	79.9%	79.6%
Laurel (PK)	14	18	77.8%	83.3%
WECMS	192	286	67.1%	52.6%
Steps	7	8	87.5%	76.2%
Total (PK-12)	1401	1843	76.0%	73.7%
Total (K-12)	1387	1825	76.0%	77.8%

Data as of October 17, 2024

Next Steps

Continued data analysis and tiered intervention

- School Attendance Meetings
- School Progress Monitoring Meetings
- District Data Summits

Attendance Updates to Board of Education

- Middle of the Year
- End of the Year

Continue to build a multi-tiered approach to communication