



Improving Attendance to Improve Student Outcomes

Beaverton School District
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Attendance: The Key Metric of Belonging, Engagement & Connection

Attendance is more than a headcount — it's a measurable signal that students feel **valued, connected, and motivated to succeed**. Research shows it predicts academic outcomes better than test scores or prior GPA.

Belonging → Motivation

Students with higher attendance report a stronger sense of belonging, driving greater academic engagement and retention. *(Lee, 2024; ImpactEd, 2023)*

Presence Predicts Success

Attendance forecasts academic success more reliably than test scores or prior GPA — it reflects genuine connection to the learning community. *(Virginia Tech, 2025)*

Proactive Outreach Works

Reaching out to absent students re-establishes belonging, reduces dropout risk, and supports overall wellbeing. *(LJMU pilot, 2023)*

Holistic Monitoring

Modern attendance tracking incorporates social-emotional factors — school membership, relationships and connectivity — as key drivers of sustained engagement. *(Attendance Works, 2020)*

Why Attendance Matters

Academic Success

Attendance is one of the strongest predictors of academic achievement from early literacy to graduation readiness.

Regular Attenders

Students attending 90% or more of school days are significantly more likely to read on grade level and stay on track for graduation.

Post-Pandemic Recovery

Following pandemic-era disruptions, BSD has worked intentionally to restore strong, consistent attendance habits districtwide.



Equity Lens



When **making decisions and taking action**, utilize the following questions:

Whose voice is and isn't represented in this decision?

Whom does this decision **benefit or burden** ?

Is this decision in alignment with the **BSD Equity Policy** ?

Does this decision **close or widen** the access, opportunity, and expectation gaps?

Additional considerations:

What **systemic barriers** might be at play in this situation?

What **other possibilities** were explored?

Is the decision/outcome **sustainable** ?



Districtwide Commitment Through School Improvement Plans

Every school in BSD has embedded attendance as a measurable priority within its School Improvement Plan (SIP).

Clear Attendance Goals

Targeting a 3–5 percentage point increase in Regular Attender rates each year, school by school.

Monthly Monitoring

School leadership teams review attendance metrics at least monthly and adjust action plans accordingly.

Proactive Action Plans

Includes proactive communication, classroom engagement strategies, and consistent follow-up protocols.

Equity-Centered Analysis

Identifies disproportionality among student groups and works to address structural and systemic barriers.





Building a Strong Data Infrastructure

BSD's Daily Attendance Data Tracking System supports real-time decision-making at every level.

Daily School Dashboards

Percentage present, emerging chronic absenteeism patterns, and students approaching "nearly at risk" status

District-Level Reports

Aligned to ADM Period 1, 2 and 3 data; ODE Regular Attender metrics; and Synergy real-time estimates

Early Intervention

Principals, counselors, and family liaisons can act *early* — not months after patterns have hardened



Strengthening Family Partnerships

A major lever for improvement has been positive, strengths-based family communication — shifting from compliance to connection.

Welcome Calls

First-day and first-week outreach to families, reinforcing that every student is expected and valued

Care-Centered Messaging

"We noticed you're missing, and we care" — replacing compliance-focused language with genuine relationship-building

Multi-Lingual Outreach

Communication aligned with family language preferences, supported by cultural liaisons and community partners

Recognition & Home Connections

Families are recognized for progress. Home connections support students with persistent or complex barriers.



The Tiered Framework for Student Attendance Success



Tiers 3 : Intensive Individualized Services (Below 80%)

Wraparound Services & Case Management

Deploy multi-disciplinary teams, relationship-based home connection, and interagency coordination to address severe absenteeism.



Tier 2: Targeted Early Warning (80-89%)

Early Warning & Barrier Identification

Identify specific barriers to attendance and provide early targeted support as student engagement begins to decline.



Universal School-Wide Supports

Belonging,

Proactive Culture & Family Outreach

Build a universal culture of attendance and safety through personalized family outreach within 48 hours.



Data-Driven Decision Making

Success relies on accurate data dashboards to monitor trends and trigger timely interventions.



Equity-Focused Communication

Ensure multi-language communication and an equity lens are applied to all family engagement strategies.

TIER 2 & 3 HIGHLIGHT

Empathy Interviews

One-on-one conversations with students, and often their families, to understand what helps them attend and what gets in the way

Common Barriers Uncovered

- Transportation inconsistencies
- Schedule or class placement conflicts
- Family responsibilities at home
- Anxiety or social disconnection from peers

These insights have helped schools **redesign interventions**, adjust schedules, and remove structural barriers that no data dashboard alone could reveal.



Early Wins from Intervention Strategies

2–6 pts

Attendance Gains

Schools using structured interventions show 2–6 percentage point improvements in Regular Attender rates.

Fall 2024

Early Impact

Students identified as "nearly at risk" in fall 2024 improved as compared to previous years.



Stronger Relationships

When students and families experience a stronger sense of belonging, engagement and connection with schools, attendance improves.

Empathy interviews are most effective when paired with rapid follow-through: students and families need to see that their input leads to real change.



Continued Work & Next Steps

BSD is committed to sustaining and deepening this momentum across all schools and student groups.

01

SIP Alignment

Continued embedding of attendance goals in every building's School Improvement Plan

02

Enhanced Dashboards

Real-time reporting upgrades to give schools faster, more actionable attendance insights

03

Professional Learning

Expanded staff training on attendance MTSS practices and culturally responsive family engagement

04

Transition Supports

Strengthening 6th and 9th grade transition programs, where attendance risk increases most sharply

05

Equity Analysis

Continued review of disproportionality data and targeted interventions for underserved student groups





Every Student, Every Day

Through aligned goals, data-driven systems, family partnerships, and student-centered interventions, BSD is making measurable progress — and our work is just getting stronger.

Stronger Systems

Real-time data and aligned SIPs across every building

Earlier Interventions

Acting on warning signs weeks before they become chronic patterns

More Connected Communities

Students and families who feel seen, heard, and supported

Thank you for your dedication to supporting every student, every day.





Questions

