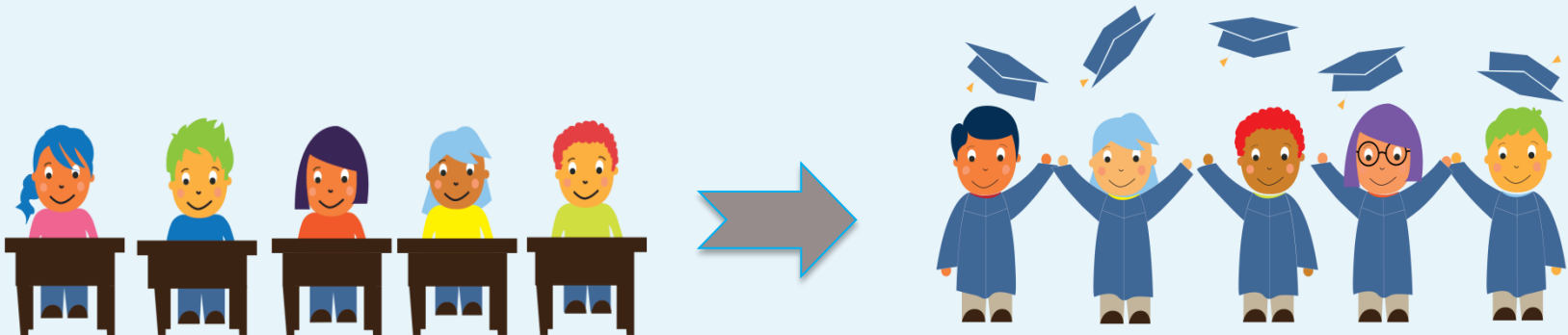


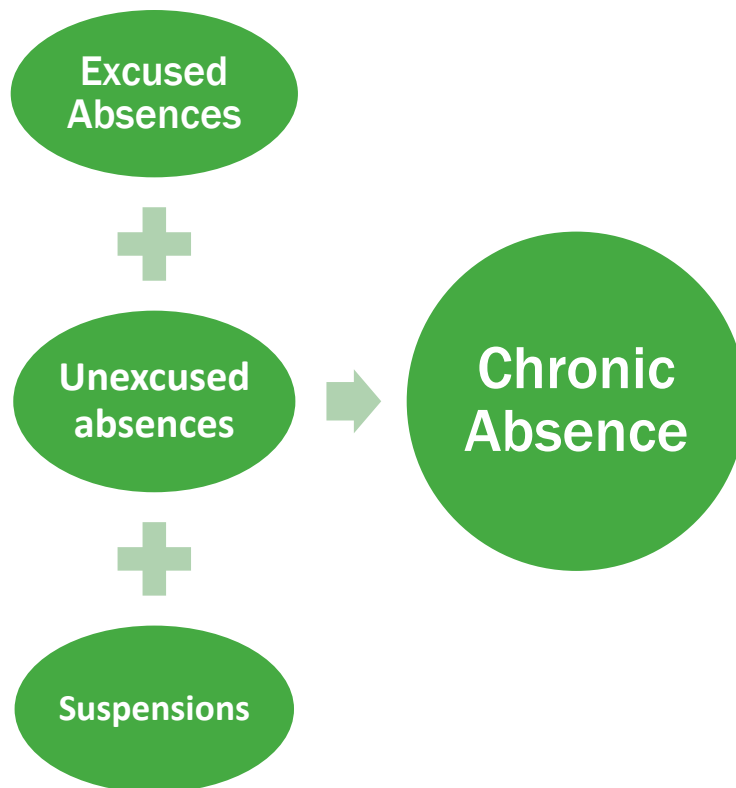
Chronic Absence:

A Solvable Problem



What is Chronic Absence?

Attendance Works recommends defining chronic absence as **missing 10% or more of school for any reason.**



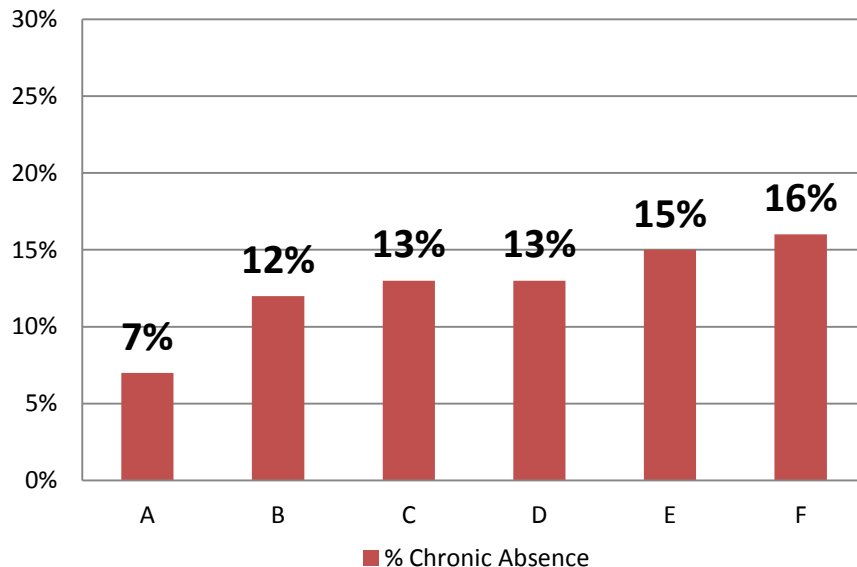
Chronic absence is different from truancy (3 unexcused absences tardies of 30 minutes or more) or average daily attendance (how many students show up to school each day).



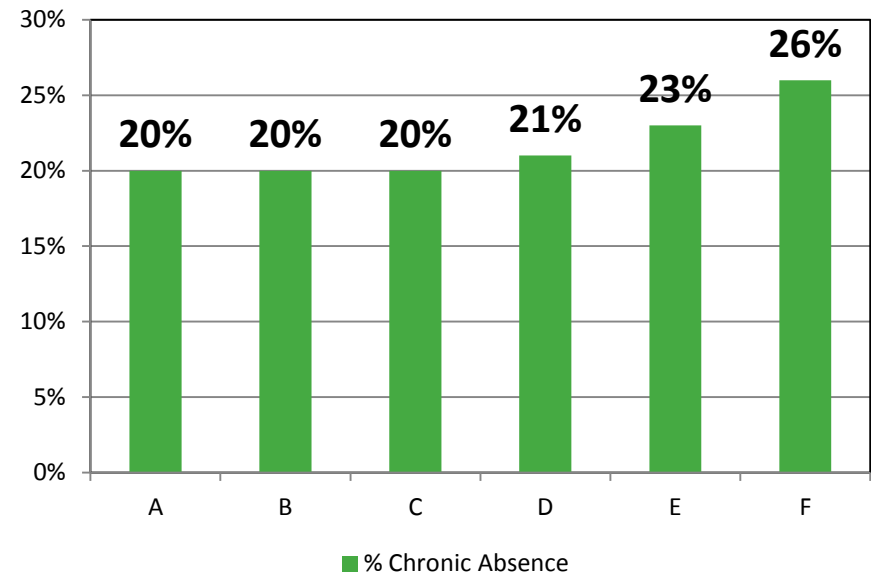
High Levels of Average Daily Attendance (ADA) Can Mask Chronic Absence

90% and even 95% \neq A

Chronic Absence For 6 Elementary Schools in Oakland, CA with 95% ADA in 2012



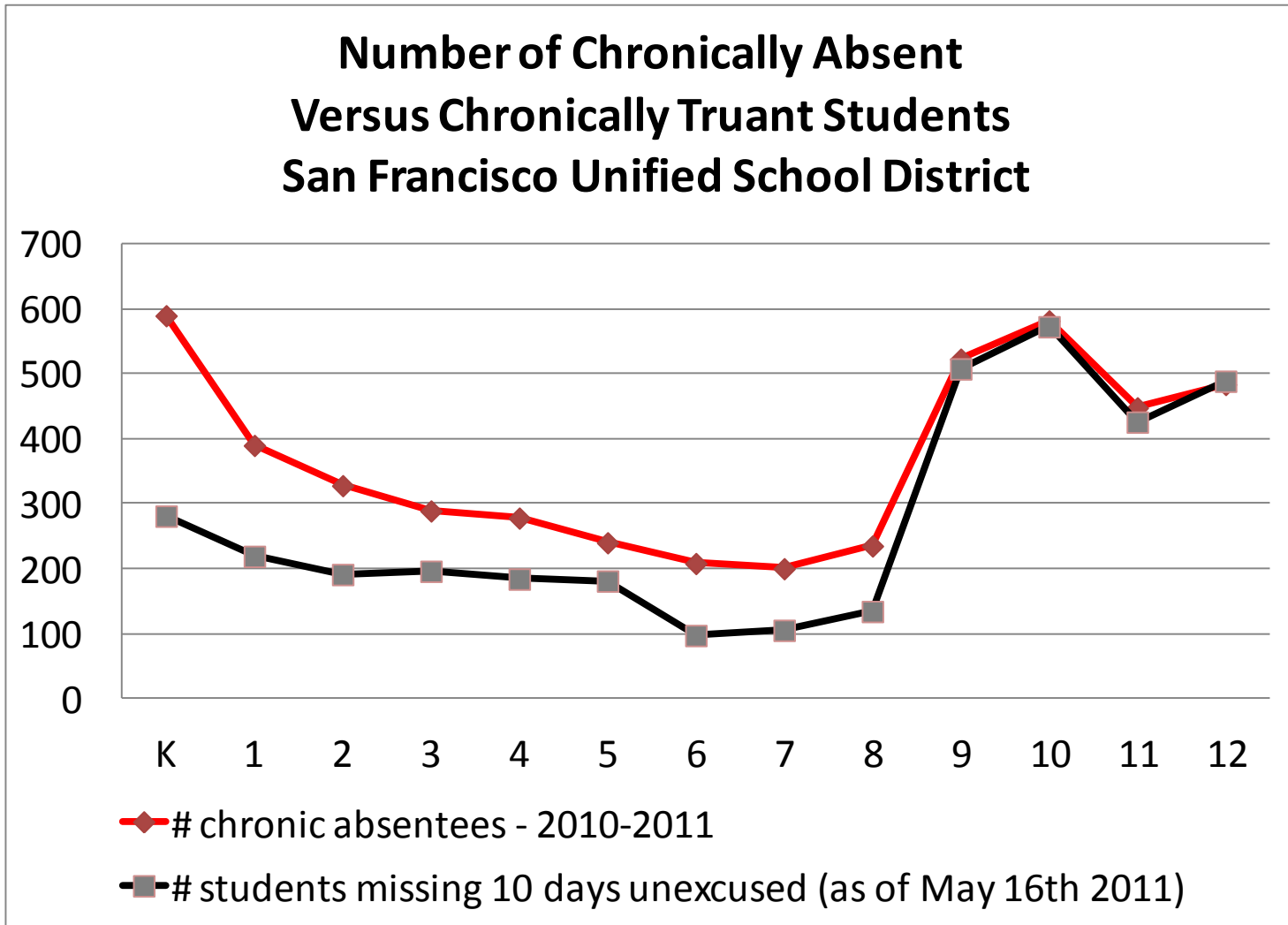
Chronic Absence for 6 Schools in New York City with 90% ADA in 2011-12



98% ADA = little chronic absence
95% ADA = don't know
93% ADA = significant chronic absence



Truancy (unexcused absences) Can Also Mask Chronic Absence



Improving Attendance Matters Because It Reflects:

Exposure to language: Starting in Pre-K, attendance equals exposure to language-rich environments especially for low-income children.

Time on Task in Class: Students only benefit from classroom instruction if they are in class.

On Track for Success: Chronic absence is a proven early warning sign that a student is behind in reading by 3rd grade, failing courses middle and high school, and likely to drop-out.

College Readiness: Attendance patterns predicts college enrollment and persistence.

Engagement : Attendance reflects engagement in learning.

Effective Practice: Schools, communities and families can improve attendance when they work together.

(For research, see: <http://www.attendanceworks.org/research/>)



Find Out Why Students Are Chronically Absent

Myths

Absences are only a problem if they are unexcused

Sporadic versus consecutive absences aren't a problem

Attendance only matters in the older grades

Barriers

Chronic disease

Lack of access to health or dental care

Poor transportation

No safe path to school

Aversion

Child struggling academically

Lack of engaging instruction

Poor school climate and ineffective school discipline

Parents had negative school experience



Going to School Every Day Reflects When Families Have ...

Hope

for a better future

+

Faith

that school will help you or your child succeed

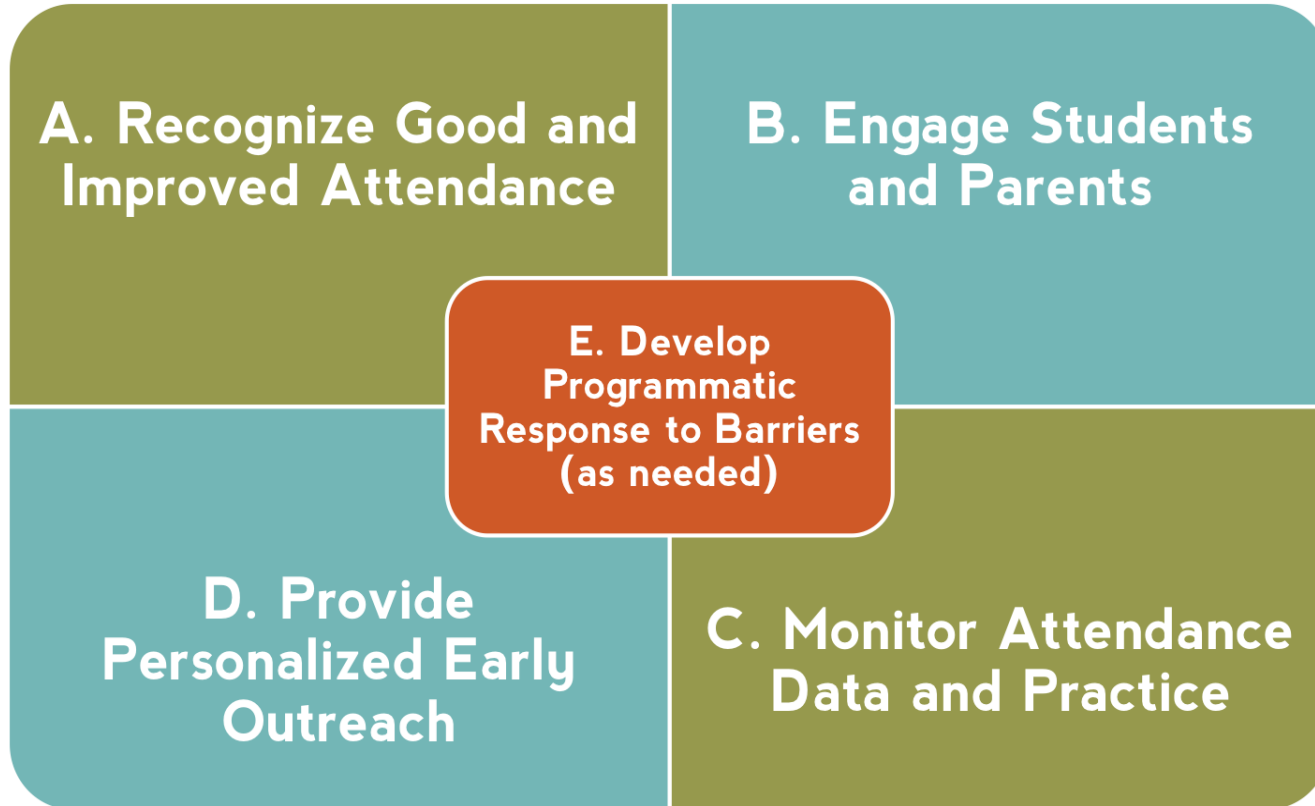
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Capacity

Resources, skills, knowledge needed to get to school



AW Recommended Site Level Strategies



Improving Attendance Requires a Multi-Tiered Approach

TIER 3 Students who missed 20% or more of the prior school year (severe chronic absence) or were chronically truant.

- Intensive case management with coordination of public agency and legal response as needed

High Cost

Truancy interventions

TIER 2 Students exhibiting chronic absence (missing 10%) or receiving 3 NOTs.

- Provide personalized early outreach
- Meet with student/family to develop plan
 - Offer attendance Mentor/Buddy

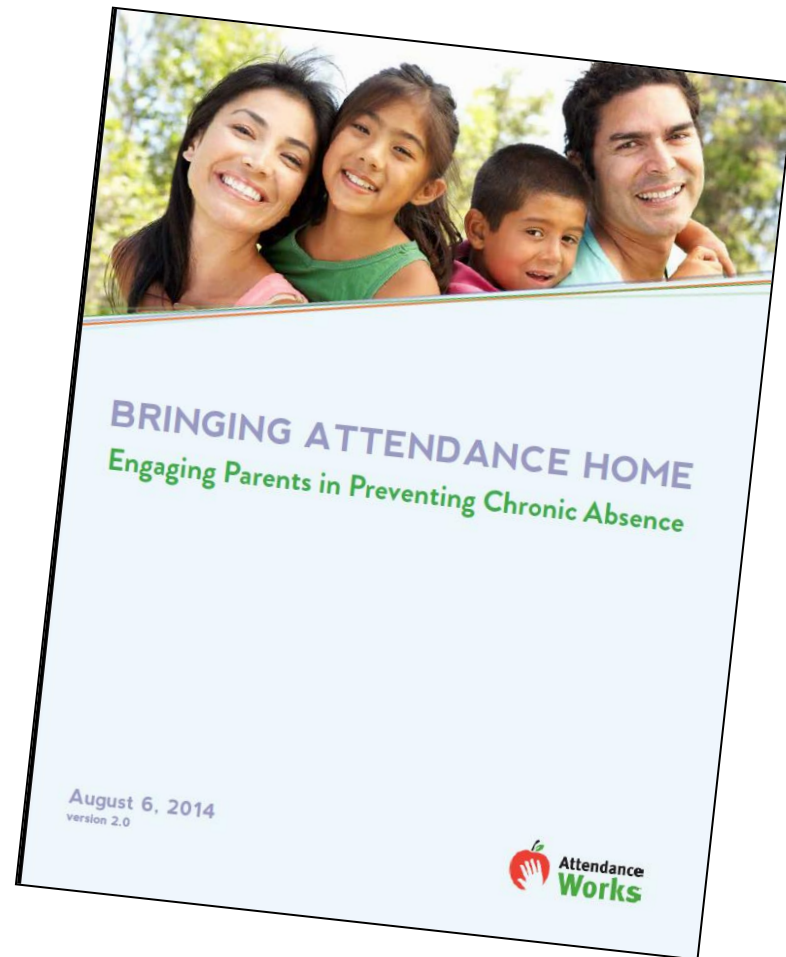
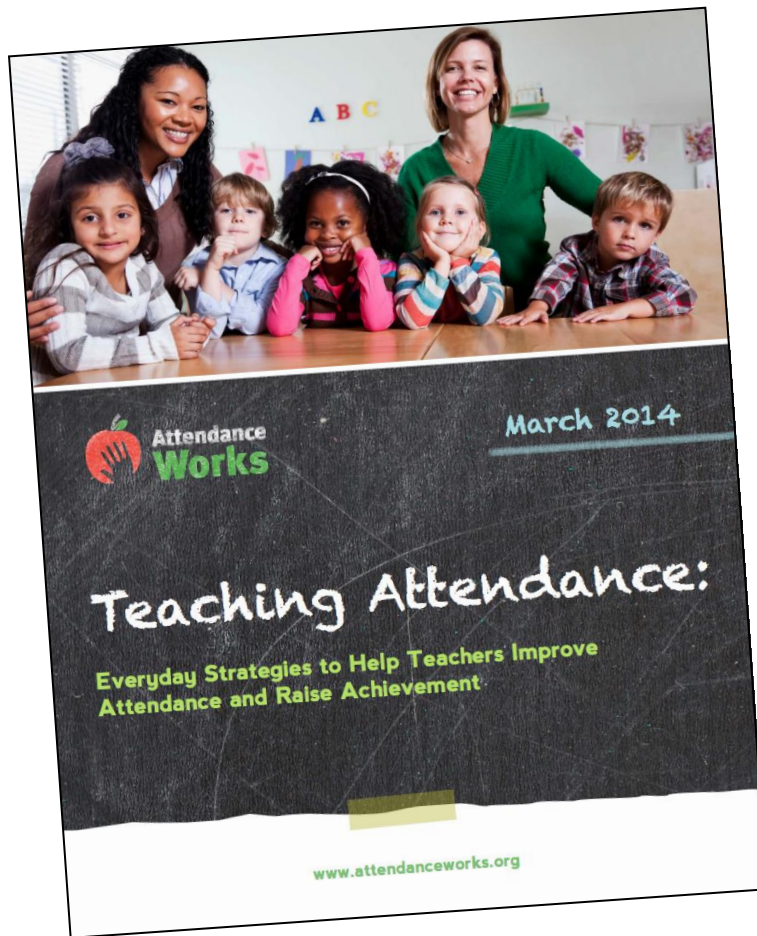
TIER 1
All students

- Recognize good and improved attendance
- Educate & engage students and families
 - Monitor attendance data
- Clarify attendance expectations and goals
- Establish positive and engaging school climate

Low Cost

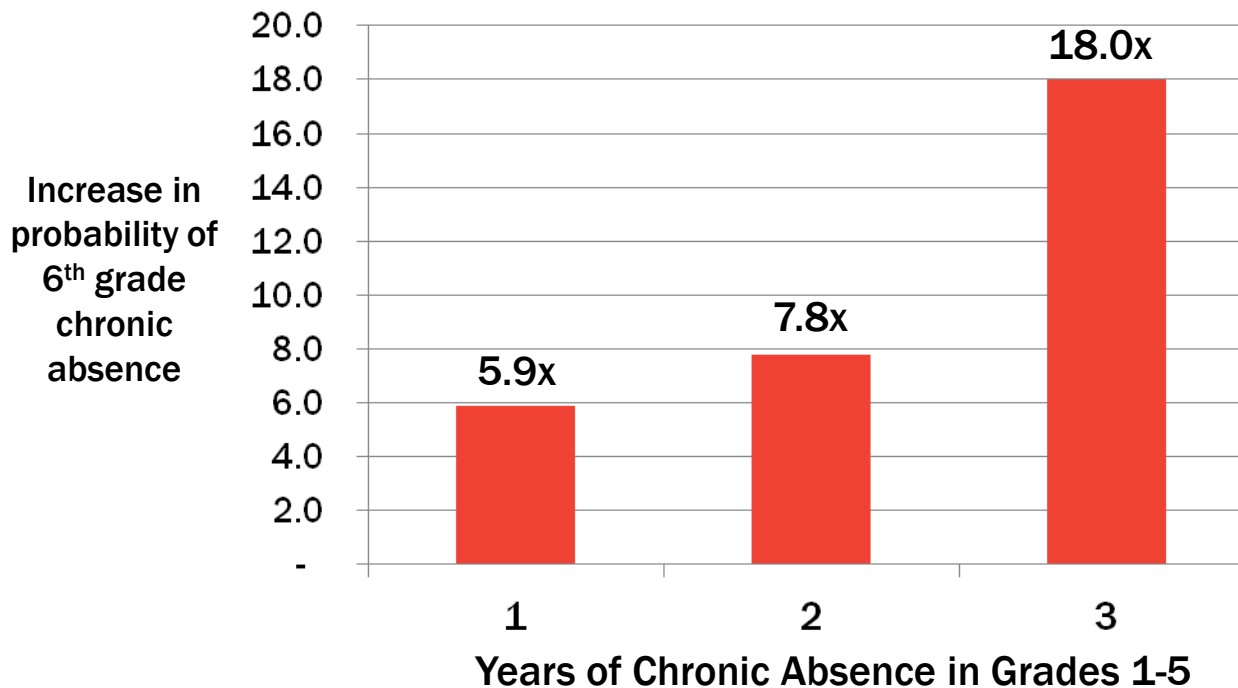


Tier 1: Communication, Education, and Engagement



Intervene Starting Early in a Child's School Career

Each year of chronic absence in elementary school is associated with a substantially higher probability of chronic absence in 6th grade

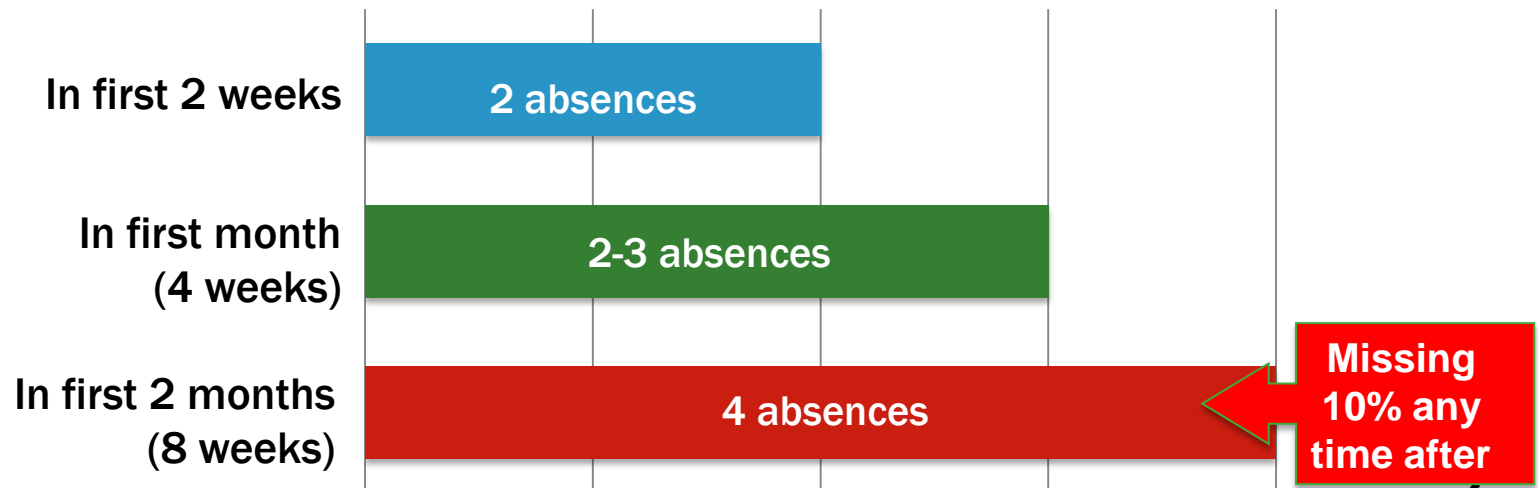


Chronic absence in 1st grade is also associated with:

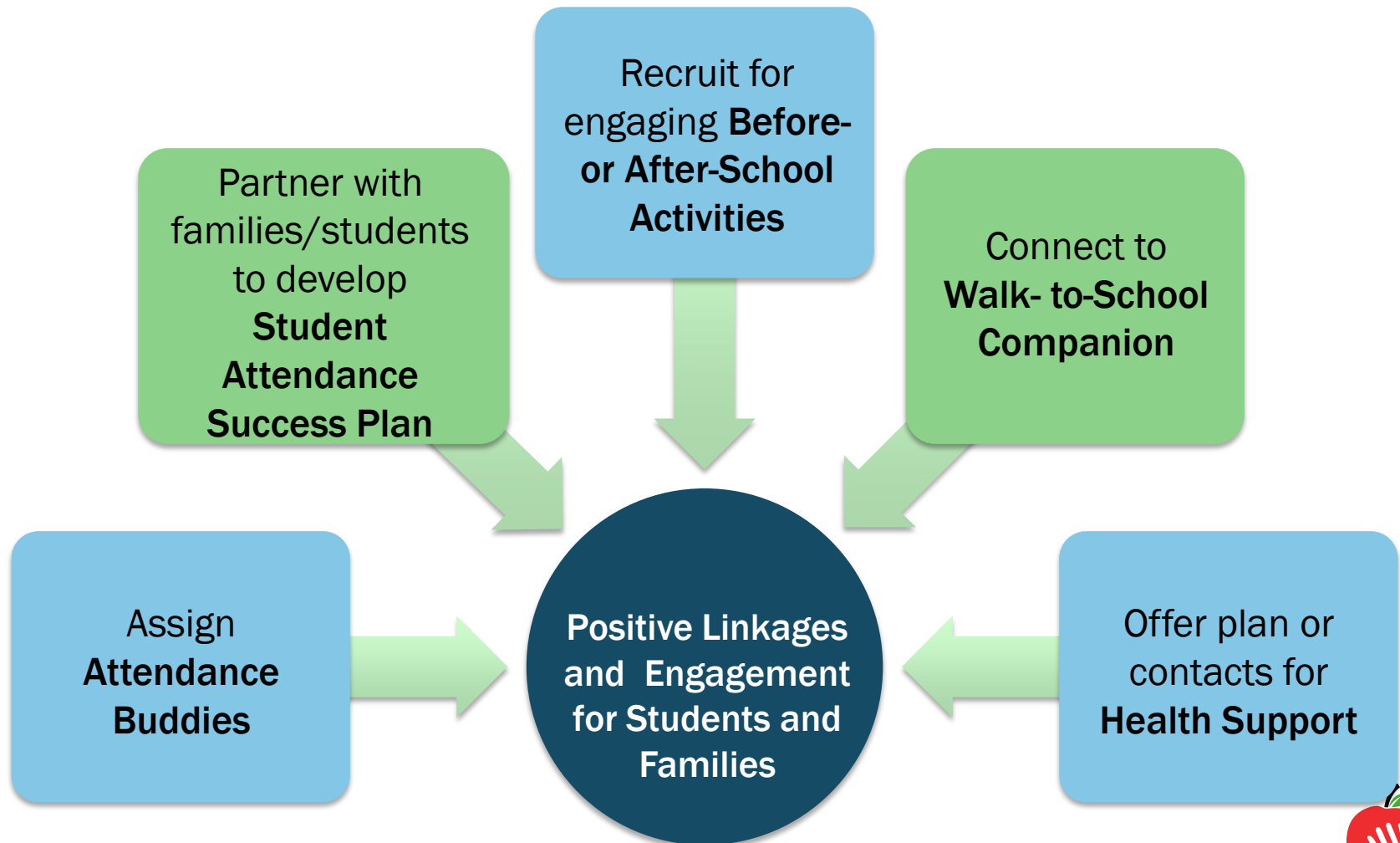
- Lower 6th grade test scores
- Higher levels of suspension

Intervene Starting Early in the Year

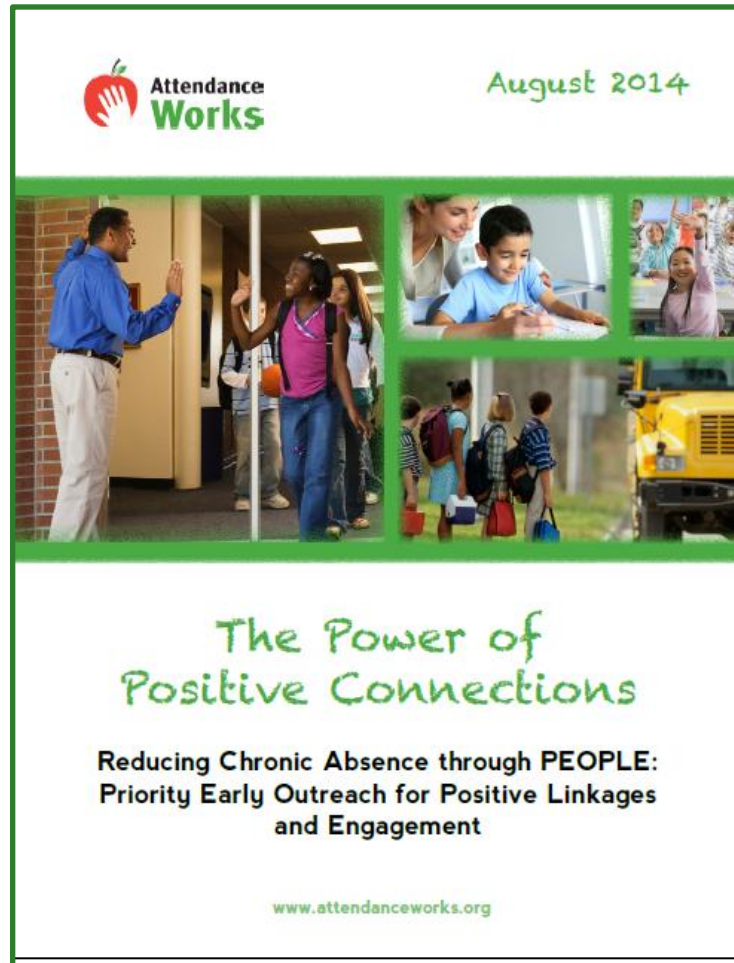
- ❑ Chronic absence (missed 10% or more of school) in the prior year, assuming data is available.
- ❑ And/or starting in the beginning of the school year, student has:



Possible Tier 2 Interventions

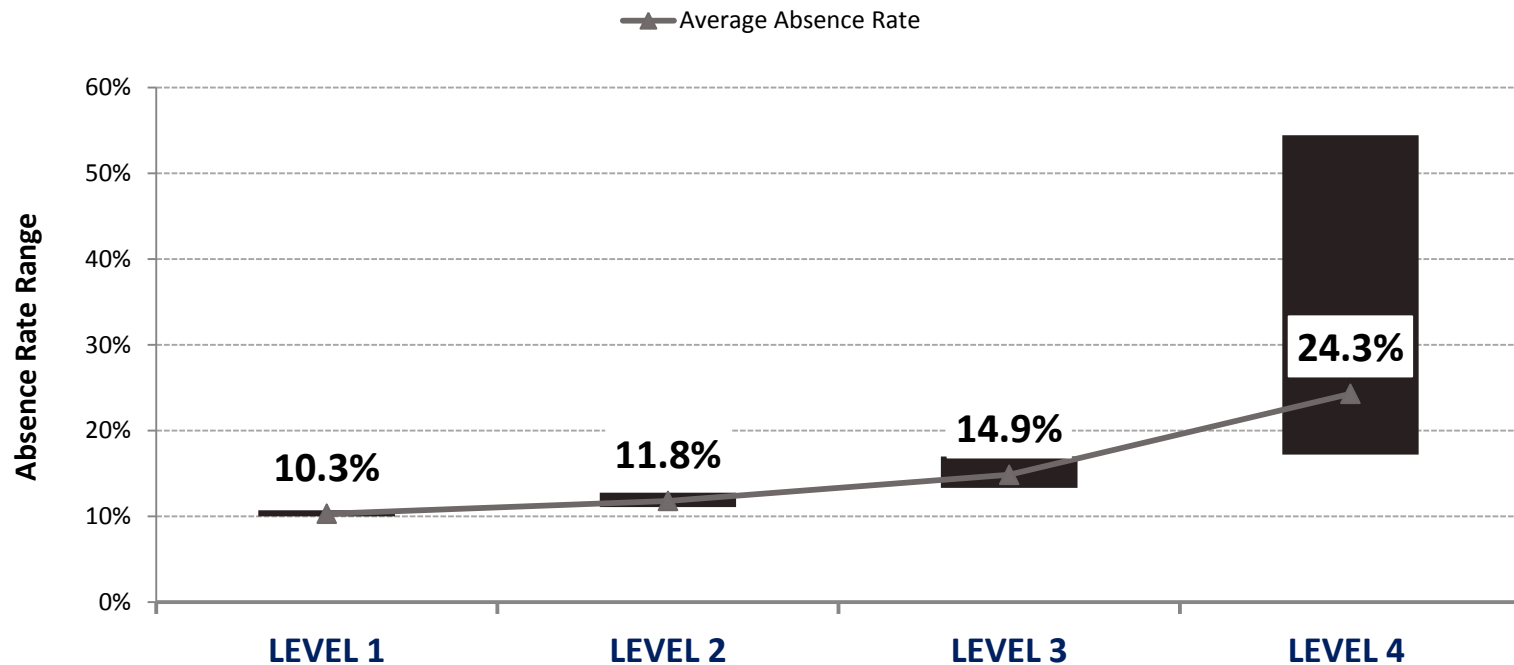


Tools for Tier 2: The Power of Positive Connections

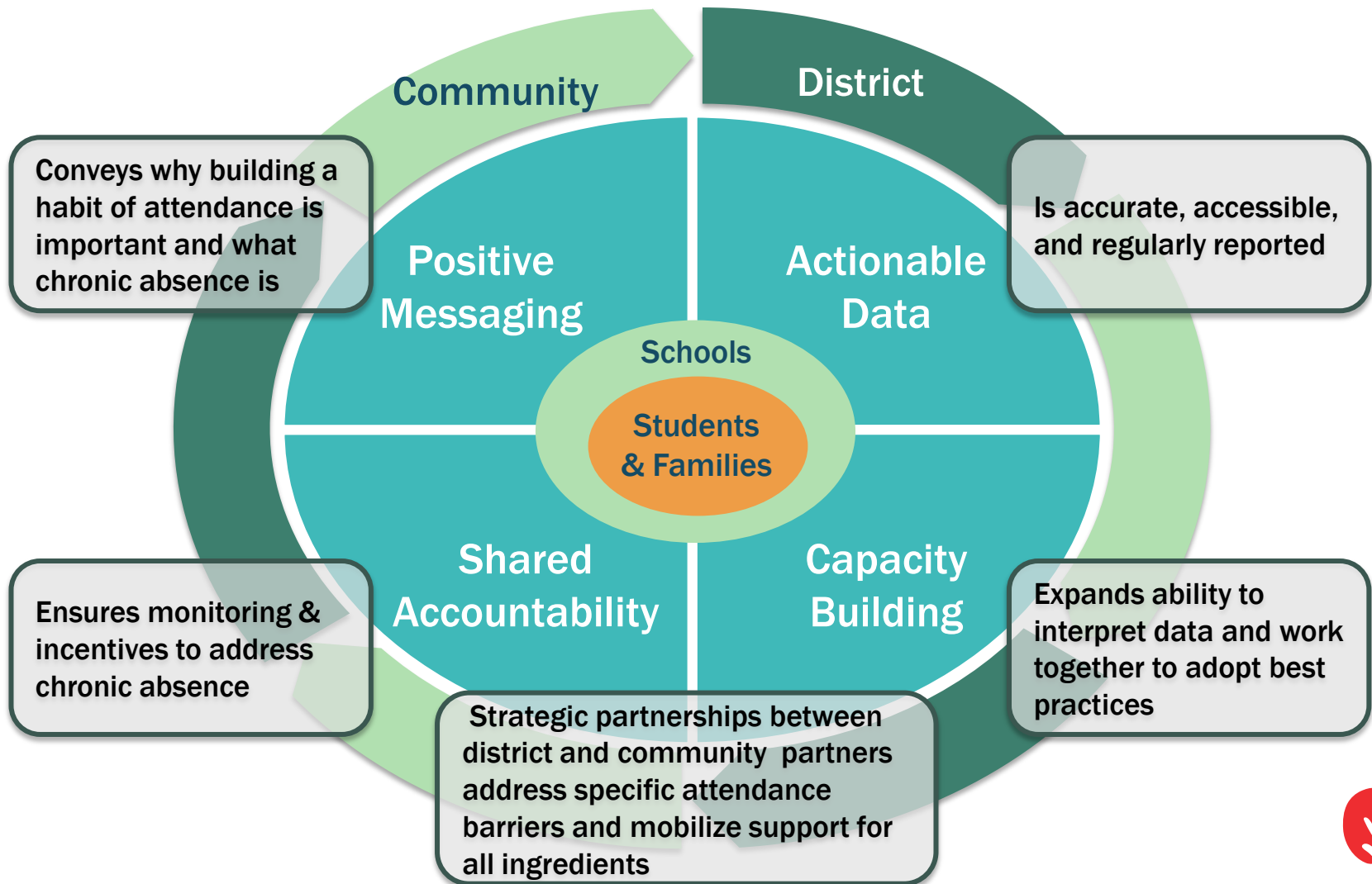


Attendance data can help identify how to target community resources

This analysis divides all chronically absent 1st graders in Oakland Unified district into 4 tiers (almost quartiles) based upon their level of absence



Ingredients for System-wide Success & Sustainability



Variation Across Schools Helps Identify Good Practice and Need for Intervention

Chronic Absence Levels Among Oakland Public Schools (2009-10)

	Elementary	Middle	High School
# Schools with 0%-5% Chronic Absence	9	0	0
# Schools with 5.1%-10% Chronic Absence	17	4	1
# Schools with 10.1%-20% Chronic Absence	25	8	6
# Schools with >20.1% Chronic Absence	9	4	9
Total No. Schools	60	16	16
Highest % of Chronic Absence	31.5%	32.8%	42.1%
Lowest % of Chronic Absence	0.3%	6.9%	7.9%
Median	12.7%	14.9%	21.0%
Mean	11.9%	15.6%	22.4%

The Superintendents Call to Action

**Own the
Issue**

**Mobilize
the
Community**

**Drive With
Data**

*To sign-up for the Call to Action, or to learn more, please visit:
www.attendanceworks.org/superintendents-call-to-action*



Chronic Absence =

The Warning Light On A Car Dashboard

The Parallels



- Ignore it at your personal peril!
- Address early or potentially pay more (lots more) later.
- The key is to ask why is this blinking? What could this mean?