

SCHOOL BASED ATTENDANCE COALITION

Purpose | Strategy | Membership

SUMMARY

The School Based Attendance Coalition (SBAC) recognizes that only through community engagement can the issue of school attendance be fully addressed. Community agencies require knowledge, expertise, and training to build strategies to improve school attendance. The coalition focuses on building awareness and facilitating professional development opportunities for members to address the factors that are shown through research to contribute to chronic absenteeism: barriers, negative school experiences, lack of engagement, and misconceptions about attendance. Attendance is not merely a school issue to solve; it is a community issue that requires cross sector partnerships to create meaningful change.

COLLABORATION

One informal metric of SBAC's effectiveness related to school attendance is to increase the number of community organizations that are actively engaged in decreasing chronic absenteeism in schools. An intentional approach of the Coalition is to convene a cross-section of stakeholders invested in the work including school social workers, mental health professionals, school and community-based providers, and juvenile justice organizations.

ASPIRATIONS

- Convene a diverse coalition of stakeholders from schools and entities in Douglas and Sarpy Counties
- Build a local taskforce committed to a coordinated, cross-sector partnership to support students and families
- Engage in a community driven approach to work related to school attendance
- Provide professional development opportunities for members to enhance their understanding of the systems and family issues which contribute to chronic absenteeism
- Leverage industry experts to evaluate best practice in addressing the underlying causes of absenteeism at the individual, family, school, and community level
- Collectively impact student attendance by building district and community partnerships that remove systemic barriers to attendance
- Foster networking opportunities among professionals to break down silos and encourage the kind of collaboration that best serves students and families
- Mobilize organizations to distribute awareness material at public events and communicates related to attendance with the populations they serve

STRATEGIES

- Create opportunities for engagement between families, community members, organizations, and system experts to increase attendance rates
- Share best practices regarding cultural and trauma competency
- Provide meaningful trainings using relevant topics and resources that directly or indirectly address absenteeism.
- Engage in a collaborative approach to enable whole communities to acquire resources, and develop networks needed to provide well-informed guidance and support to families



SOME OF OUR COALITION MEMBERS

SBAC is continuously growing therefore this list is not exhaustive

- Bellevue Public Schools
- Boys Town – South Omaha
- Child Saving Institute
- Completely KIDS
- Council Bluffs Community School District
- D2 Center
- Douglas County Youth Center
- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- Girls, Inc.
- GOALS Center
- Green Hills AEA
- Juvenile Assessment Center
- Kim Foundation
- Latino Center of the Midlands
- Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy County
- MENTOR Nebraska
- Metro-Omaha Raise Me to Read
- Millard Public Schools
- MT Java
- Omaha Public Schools
- Omaha Street School
- Omni Inventive Care
- Operation Youth Success
- Partnership 4 Kids
- Project Harmony
- Ralston Public Schools
- Region Six
- Sarpy County Head Start
- Southwest Iowa Raise Me to Read
- United Way of the Midlands
- Urban League of Nebraska
- Westside Community Schools