



ATTENDANCE SUCCESS

BLUEPRINT

A STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT FOR SUSTAINABLE IMPROVEMENT

Chronic absenteeism is one of the strongest predictors of graduation risk and accountability performance.

This Solutions Blueprint outlines a systems-based approach to transforming attendance from a compliance measure into a graduation strategy.

ATTENDANCE IS A GRADUATION LEVER

Chronic absenteeism is one of the strongest predictors of dropout risk and declining accountability performance.

When attendance declines, achievement gaps widen, behavior incidents increase, course completion drops, graduation rates decline, Accountability pressure rises.



1 in 5 students is chronically absent today. Attendance is not a compliance issue.

It is a systems issue.

THE ATTENDANCE IMPACT PATH



Chronic Absenteeism

Students miss 10% or more of instructional time



Lost Instructional Time

Students miss critical learning opportunities, making it harder to keep up academically.



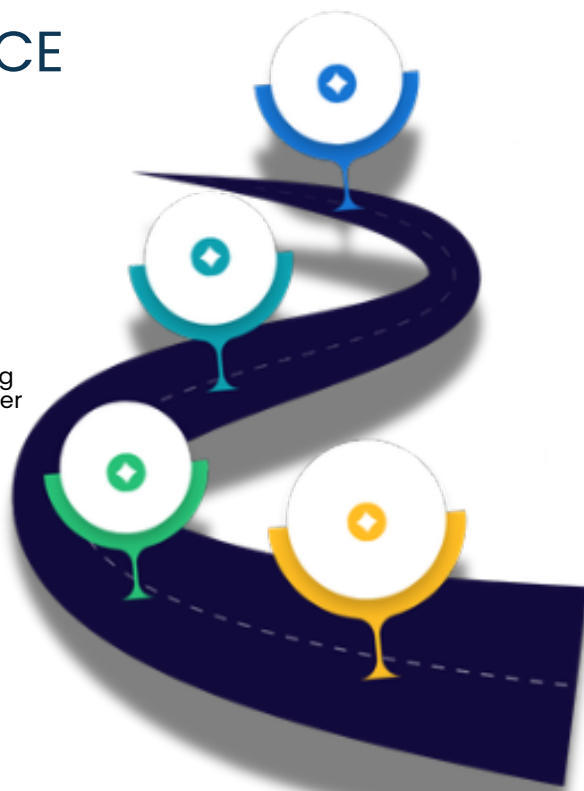
Course Failure & Credit Deficits

Students fall off their graduation trajectory



Graduation & Accountability Impact

Lower completion rates and increased system pressure



Districts that see measurable gains treat attendance as part of a broader graduation strategy—aligning leadership, instruction, and student engagement.

THE ATTENDANCE CRISIS BY THE NUMBERS

- **Today**, ~22% of students are still chronically absent
- **Before COVID Pandemic:** 6.5 million students were chronically absent.
- **After COVID Pandemic:** disruptions, rates of chronic absence surged to 28% nationally

Attendance has improved, but has not recovered.

THE COST OF CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

- **\$62** per absence (California)
- **\$10,800** per dropout annually
- **\$3M** loss in a 10K-student district

Chronic absenteeism is not just an academic issue—it has direct financial consequences for districts.

A THREE-DOMAIN FRAMEWORK FOR ATTENDANCE IMPROVEMENT

Attendance Improves When Engagement Improves



NDPC's attendance strategy is grounded in the **Rigor, Relevance, and Resilience (R³) Learning Model**, which strengthens instruction, connection, and student resilience. Building on that foundation, engagement is organized across three practical domains: People, Activities, and Instruction.

ATTENDANCE DRIVES ACHIEVEMENT

Students with strong attendance are more than twice as likely to meet academic standards.

- 52.3% vs 25.2% (Math)
- 61.4% vs 39.5% (ELA)

WHEN THESE DOMAINS ARE ALIGNED, ATTENDANCE STABILIZES.



PEOPLE

Students engage first with people. The quality and consistency of relationships with adults and peers directly influence a student's desire to attend school. When districts ensure that every student is meaningfully connected to at least one trusted adult, foster positive peer interactions, and proactively identify students who may be isolated, attendance patterns begin to stabilize. Students who feel known, supported, and valued are more likely to show up consistently.

Activities

Students also engage through participation in structured and informal school activities. Athletics, clubs, organizations, and high-interest programs strengthen belonging and increase voluntary attendance. Districts that expand inclusive offerings, reduce access barriers, and intentionally connect at-risk students to meaningful activities create additional reasons for students to be present. The more students are positively engaged beyond the classroom, the more likely they are to persist.



Instruction

Instruction remains the long-term driver of sustained attendance. When learning connects to student goals, increases interaction, and demonstrates clear relevance, students are more likely to remain engaged. As classrooms move toward higher rigor and real-world relevance—core principles of the **Rigor, Relevance, and Resilience (R³) Learning Model**—engagement deepens, resilience grows, and absenteeism declines. Strong instruction strengthens daily attendance and long-term graduation outcomes.

HOW DISTRICTS REVERSE THE CYCLE

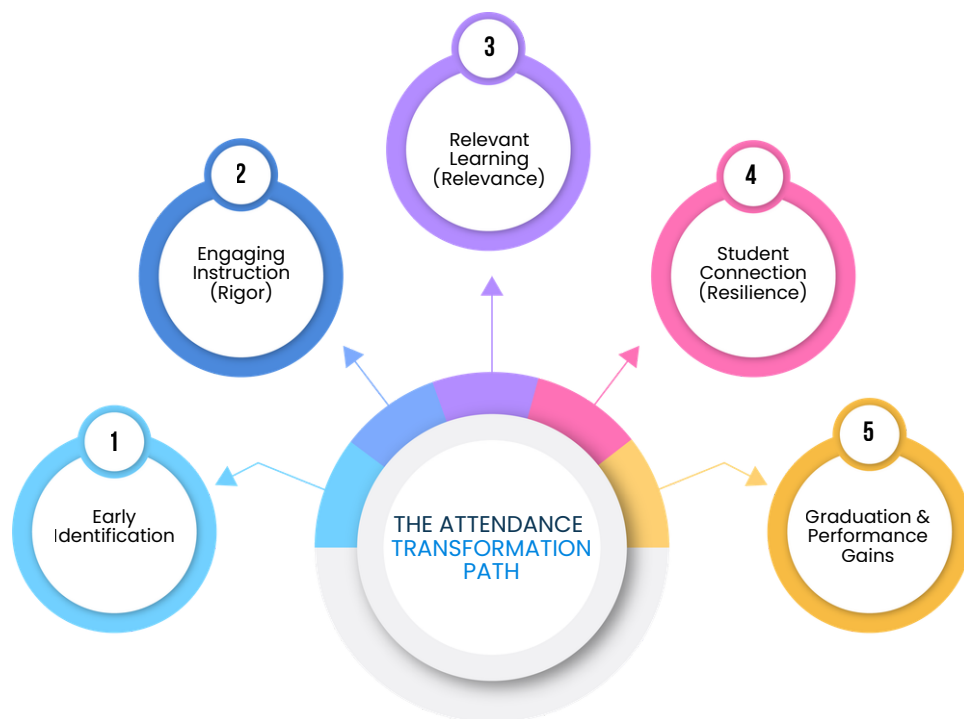
Addressing absenteeism requires more than notifications and letters home. It requires aligned systems.

ATTENDANCE IMPROVEMENT DRIVES MEASURABLE RESULTS

When districts implement structured attendance strategies:

- Chronic absenteeism can decline within a single semester
- Graduation rates improve by 4–10 percentage points within two years
- Students with strong attendance are more than twice as likely to meet academic standards

Results improve when attendance strategies are aligned with instruction, engagement, and leadership.



NDPC PARTNERS WITH DISTRICTS TO STRENGTHEN:

- Executive leadership alignment
- Early warning system integration
- Tiered attendance response structures
- Professional learning focused on engagement
- Family and community engagement strategies

This is not a program.
It is a capacity-building strategy.

START YOUR ATTENDANCE TRANSFORMATION

Attendance is one of the most actionable levers for improving graduation rates and accountability performance.

Partner with NDPC to build a system that delivers measurable results.

START THE CONVERSATION

Improving attendance starts with a clear strategy. Connect with NDPC to discuss your district's attendance goals and explore how our team can support a systems-based approach to improving outcomes.

Submit your information to begin the conversation by scanning the QR code or following the link below.



<https://bit.ly/raise-attendance>

THE NDPC DIFFERENCE

For nearly four decades, NDPC has supported schools, districts, and states in improving graduation outcomes through research-informed, systems-based solutions.

Our Attendance Improvement work is

- Research-grounded
- Systems-focused
- Instructionally aligned
- Designed for sustainability
- Built around measurable outcomes

We do not provide checklists.
We build capacity.

CLICK HERE TO EXPLORE NDPC'S ATTENDANCE SERVICES

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