



# Stronger Connections Collaborative

March 26, 2026



Welcome – please **SIGN IN** so I can send resources after the meeting!



# Logistics

Before we get started,

-  This meeting is being recorded so we can share key takeaways and support those who couldn't attend live.
-  Please stay muted unless you're speaking to help reduce background noise.
-  If you have a question or comment, feel free to unmute yourself or type it in the chat — we want to hear from you!
-  AI notetakers are NOT permitted during the session.

Thanks for helping us create a respectful and engaging space for everyone.

# Webinar: Improving Attendance and Engagement in Schools

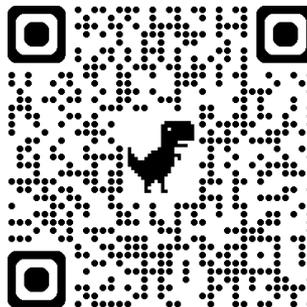
*Presented by*



**Attendance  
Works**

Advancing Student Success By Reducing Chronic Absence

**April 7, 2026  
12:30-2 p.m.**



# *Save the Date*



**ILLINOIS**  
STATE BOARD OF  
EDUCATION

# Agenda

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Inclusive Welcome

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Resource Spotlight

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Pass the Mic

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Technical Assistance / Announcements

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Intentional Close



# Say hello in the chat...

**Name**

**Role**

**School  
District**

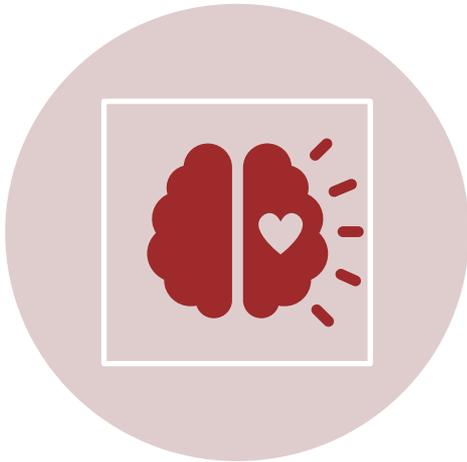


# Inclusive Welcome

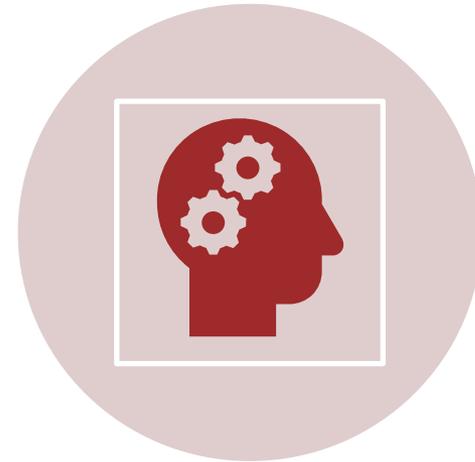
# 5 Senses Grounding Practice



# 5 Senses Grounding Practice

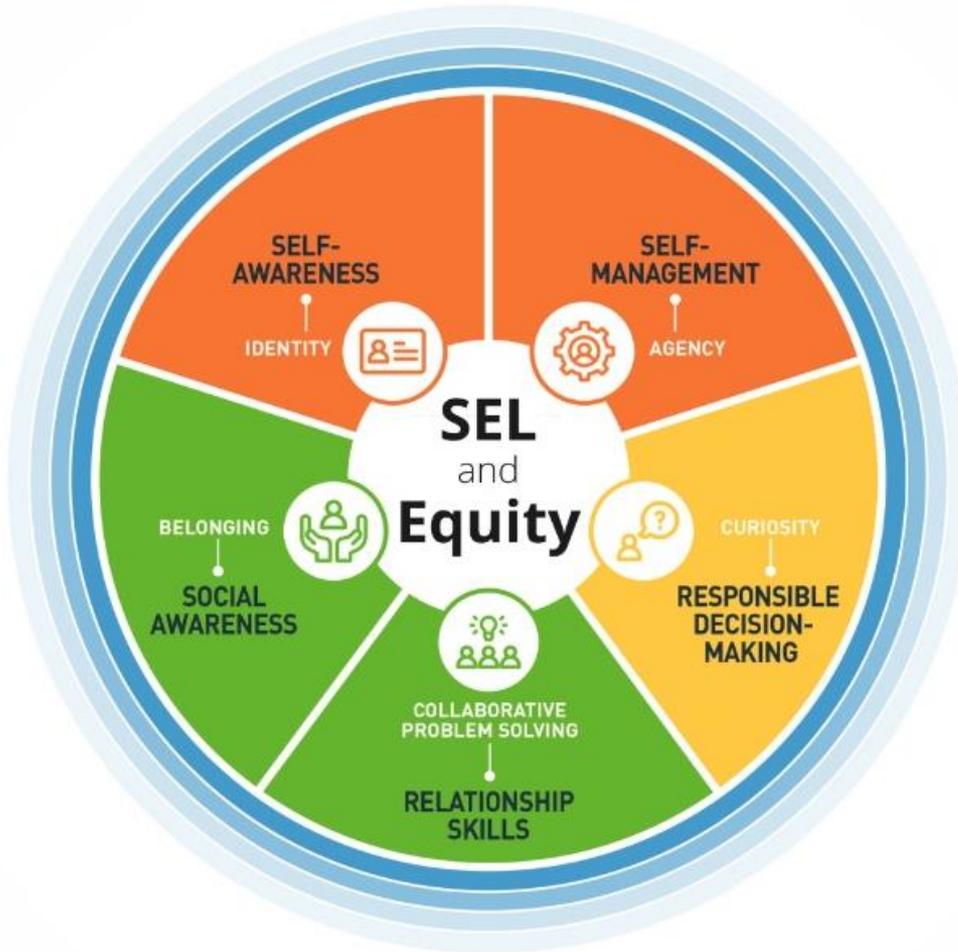


**SELF-AWARENESS**



**SELF-MANAGEMENT**

# CASEL Resources



- [CASEL](#) – Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning
- [5 SEL Competencies](#) & Focal Constructs
- [3 Signature Practices](#)
- [School](#) and [District](#) SEL Implementation
- [How does SEL Support Equity?](#)



# Resource Spotlight

# Strategies and Resources for Improving Attendance

# Attendance Works – Quick Links



This document is a highlight of links to resources on the Attendance Works website - <https://www.attendanceworks.org/>

<b>E-Learning Series for Educators</b>	3 session series with set dates; Fee per person;	<a href="https://www.attendanceworks.org/technical-assistance/e-learning-series-for-educators/">https://www.attendanceworks.org/technical-assistance/e-learning-series-for-educators/</a>
<b>E-Learning Series for Educators</b>	Flyer with details about each session in the series	<a href="https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/PD-elearning-Attendance-Works-flyer-042925-.pdf">https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/PD-elearning-Attendance-Works-flyer-042925-.pdf</a>
<b>Professional Leadership Attendance Network (PLAN)</b>	Intensive, six-month professional network designed to equip district leaders with the tools and systems needed to effectively reduce chronic absence.	<a href="https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Attendance-Works-PLAN-2025-092925.pdf">https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Attendance-Works-PLAN-2025-092925.pdf</a>
<b>How to Organize an Effective School Team to Improve Attendance</b>	Step-by-step guidance on forming a school attendance team	<a href="https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Attendance-Works-Guidance-for-SCHOOL-Attendance-Teams-1.14.2023.pdf">https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Attendance-Works-Guidance-for-SCHOOL-Attendance-Teams-1.14.2023.pdf</a>
<b>How to Organize an Effective District Team to Improve Attendance</b>	Step-by-step guidance on forming a district attendance team	<a href="https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Attendance-Works-Guidance-for-District-Teams-1.14.2023.pdf">https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Attendance-Works-Guidance-for-District-Teams-1.14.2023.pdf</a>
<b>Understanding the Factors Contributing to Chronic Absence in Your School</b>	Outline with rubric evaluating key questions related to family, school, and community	<a href="https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/ID-Cont-Factors-DEC-2010-.pdf">https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/ID-Cont-Factors-DEC-2010-.pdf</a>
<b>3 Tiers of Intervention</b>	Links to interactive tools outlining Foundational Strategies + Tier 1, 2, 3 interventions	<a href="https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/addressing-chronic-absence/3-tiers-of-intervention/">https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/addressing-chronic-absence/3-tiers-of-intervention/</a>
<b>Student Absenteeism Worksheet</b>	Rubric to evaluate individual students and 5 key areas related to attendance and positive conditions for learning	<a href="https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Causes-for-Student-Absences-Worksheet-CFL-040925.pdf">https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Causes-for-Student-Absences-Worksheet-CFL-040925.pdf</a>
<b>Scan of Environment and Attendance (SEAT) Tool</b>	Tool designed for school leaders to engage school staff, students, parents, and community members to identify strengths and opportunities to promote positive school culture and strong attendance. Includes tool and user guide	<a href="https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/scan-environment-attendance/">https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/scan-environment-attendance/</a>
<b>Qualitative Data Tools</b>	A collection of tools and strategies for collecting qualitative data on attendance	<a href="https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/qualitative-data/">https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/qualitative-data/</a>
<b>Self-Assessment Tools</b>	Links on this page to attendance self-assessment for school and district level	<a href="https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/self-assessment/">https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/self-assessment/</a>
<b>Toolkits</b>	Links to a variety of toolkits for various areas of focus	<a href="https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/toolkits/">https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/toolkits/</a>

# Attendance Works – Handouts for Families



Support the habit of good attendance

Multiple grade levels – pre-k through secondary

Multiple languages available

Geared for in-person and remote instruction

Infographic for chronic absence in early grades

# Personalize Attendance

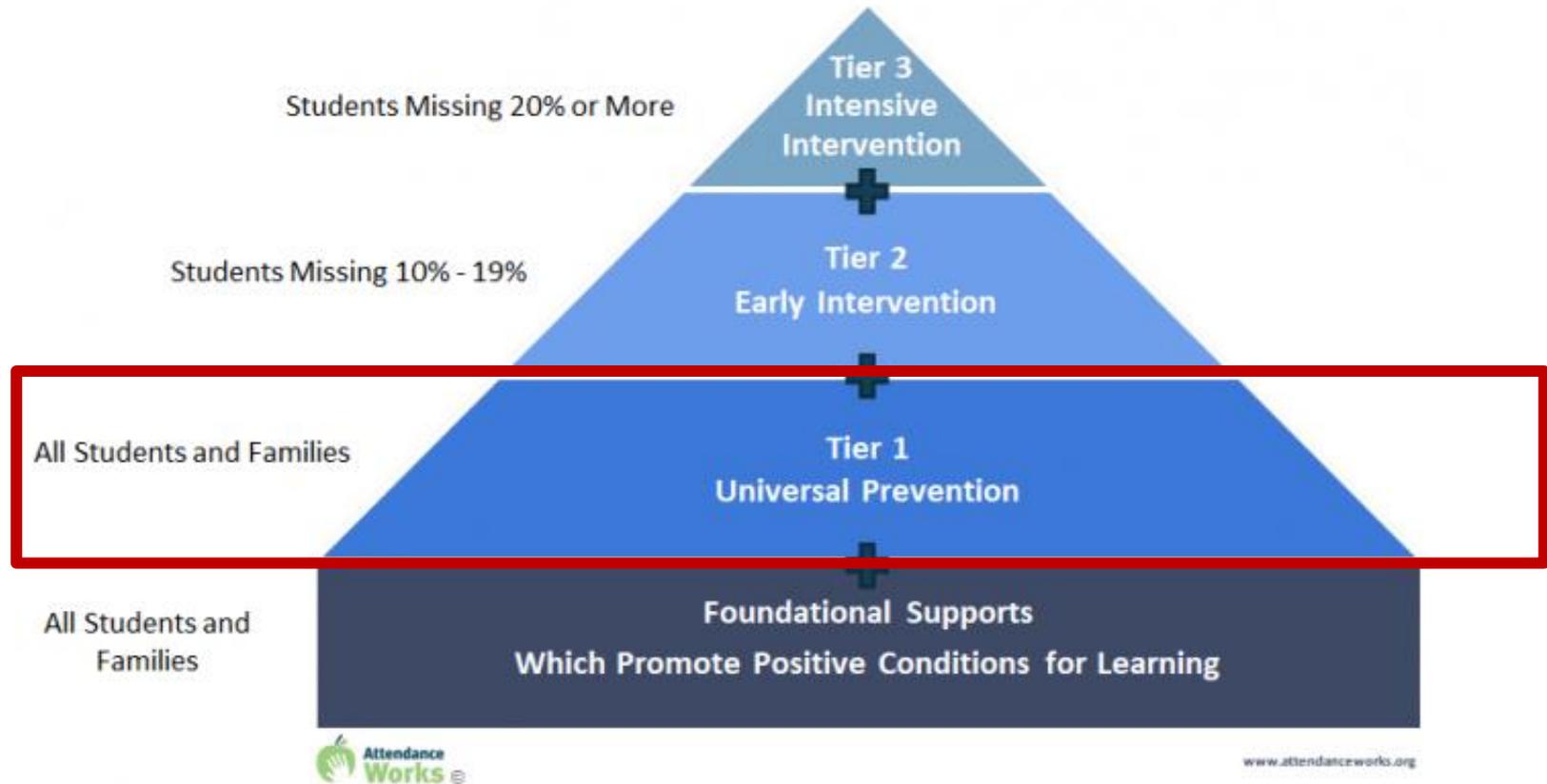
## Improve Attendance with Personalized Messages: A Step-by- Step Guide for Educators



- An overview of the messaging intervention
- Considerations for planning to roll out the messages in your district
- Tips for successful implementation
- Message templates that can be adapted for use in your district

*Center for Education Policy Research – Harvard University*  
*December 2024*

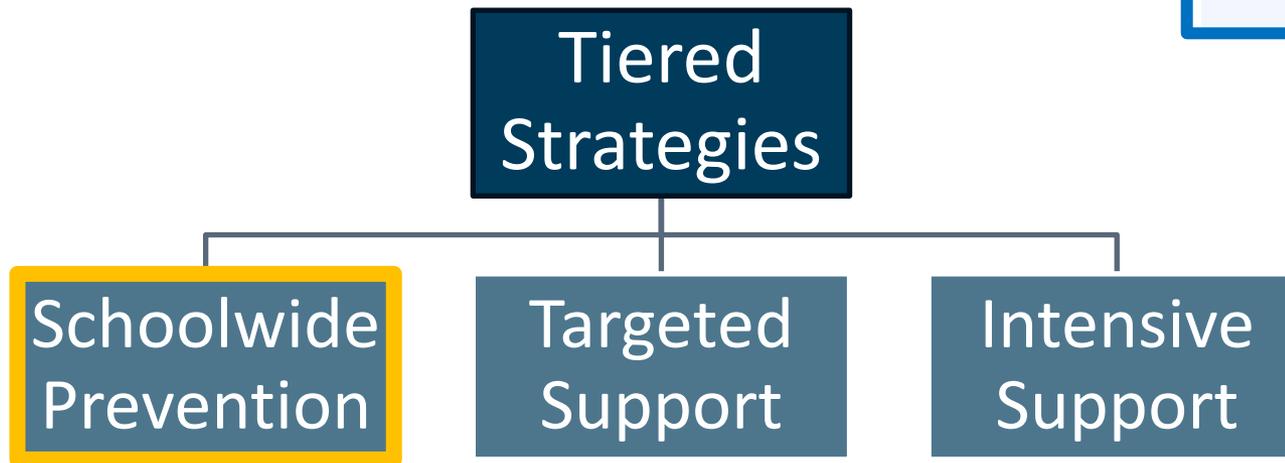
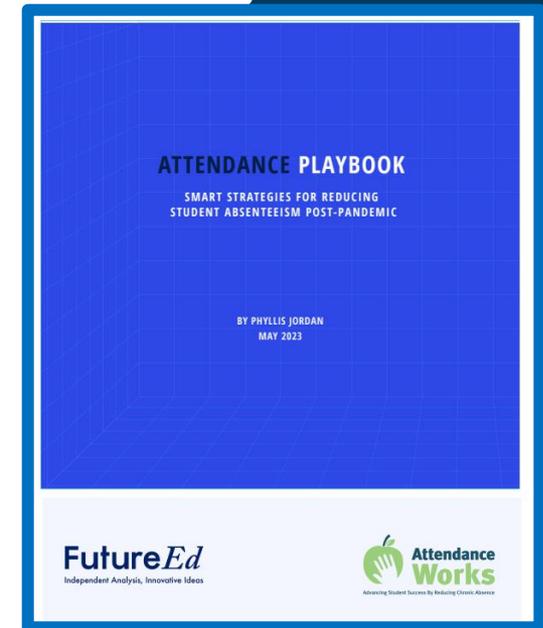
# Tiered Supports for Improving Attendance



Source: Attendance Works; [3 Tiers of Intervention](#)

# Attendance Playbook

- Developed in collaboration between [FutureEd](#) and [Attendance Works](#) – May 2023
- Examples of evidence-based tiered strategies for attendance



# Tier 1 – Schoolwide Prevention

Family  
engagement

Relationships

Relevant  
instruction

Restorative  
practices

Summer/  
Afterschool

# Tier 1 – Schoolwide Prevention

Positive  
greetings

Incentives

Recess

Healthy  
buildings

Health  
services

# Tier 1 – Schoolwide Prevention

Telehealth

Free meals

Transportation

Safe walks to  
school

Laundry

# Breakout Room Discussion



What Tier 1 strategies are successful?



What Tier 1 strategy would you like to develop?



Are there other Tier 1 strategies not mentioned?



## Social Emotional Learning Hubs

- Direct support for social emotional learning and universal mental health screening.
- Provide coaching, professional development, training, and capacity building to districts and regional offices in their area.
- Assist school-community leadership teams to implement data-driven strategies to address student trauma and mental health needs and build resilient communities.

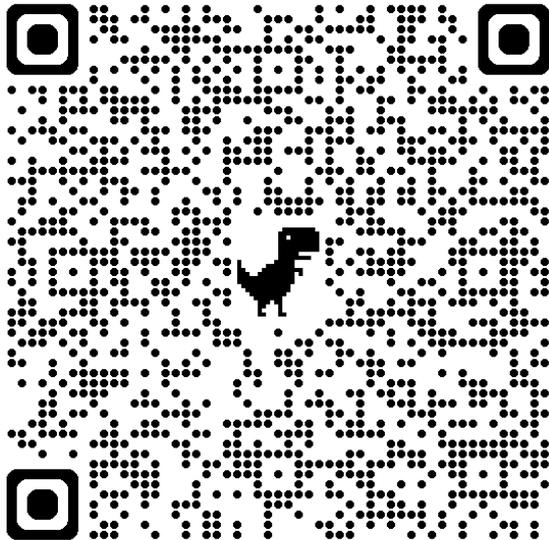
## Resilience Supportive Schools Illinois

- **Free** and voluntary support that uses school-specific data to connect educators with evidence-informed tools and resources to improve the mental health and well-being of their school-communities. Choose a focus:
  - Trauma-responsiveness
  - Social and Emotional Learning
  - Mental Health
  - Cultural Responsiveness



# Pass the Mic

# Share Your Success



Complete the [Stronger Connections Share Success Form](#) to sign up today!



# Technical Assistance / Updates

# SCG Year 2 (FY 2026) Reporting

## Quarterly Metric Reports – Year 2

### FY 2025 Stronger Connections Grant - Year 2 (FY26) - Quarterly Metric Reports

This form is collecting information for FY 2026 (Year 2 of the FY 2025 grant activity)

**Submission of this report quarterly is a requirement of grant.**

- Quarter 1 – July through September; **Due Oct. 20, 2025**
- Quarter 2 – October through December; **Due Jan. 20, 2026**
- Quarter 3 – January through March; **Due April 20, 2026**
- Quarter 4 – April through June; **Due July 20, 2026**

Quarter 3 report due **April 20, 2026** –  
*reporting period January 2026-March 2026*

# Grantee Manual – Updates for Year 2 (FY 2026)

## Stronger Connections Grant Manual



New document on SC website

Updated reporting requirements

New quarterly metric form link

Grant timeline details

Reporting guidance and expectations

# Dates to Remember...



Quarter 3 Metric Report – **April 20, 2026**



Stronger Connections Collaborative – **April 30, 2026**



Grant End Date – **June 30, 2026**

*OR September 30, 2026, with continuing application*



# Questions?



# Intentional Close

# *Intentional Close*

Reflect on the prompts and share one response with the whole group...



What final thoughts do you have?

What feelings emerged?



What action will you take?

# Stronger Connections Contacts



Email: [StrongerConnections@isbe.net](mailto:StrongerConnections@isbe.net)



[ISBE Stronger Connections Grant webpage](#)



Phone: 217-782-5270

Thank you