




Every Day Counts Cohort Meeting

March 18, 2026



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!

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

Meet the Illinois State Board of Education SCTAC team

- **Carl Amos**- Safe and Healthy Climate
- **Nanette Coley**-Safe and Healthy Climate
- **Sarah Littrell**- Supervisor, Wellness and Student Care
- **Theresa Olsen**- Wellness and Student Care



Agenda

- Inclusive Welcome
- Resource Spotlight
- Breakout Discussion
- Announcements
- Intentional Close



The purpose of this cohort

☀ Everyday Counts Illinois

Student Engagement Cohort on Chronic Absenteeism

Building Belonging, Connection, and Equity—One Day at a Time

Chronic absenteeism is more than missed day it's a signal of disconnection. This cohort is about reconnecting students through relationships, equity, and SEL.

Together, we'll share strategies, celebrate wins, and build systems that help every student feel seen, supported, and engaged.

Inclusive Welcome

What's the News?

Share your news', It can mean anything you want it to be. Something happening in your life, your week, your mood, or your work whatever feels comfortable for you to share



- 3 Signature Practices
- School and District SEL Implementation

Webinar: Improving Attendance and Engagement in Schools

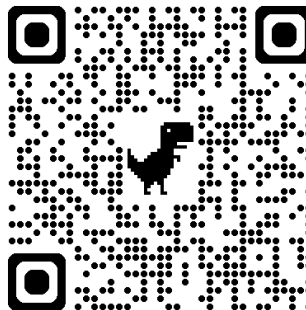
Presented by



**Attendance
Works**

Advancing Student Success By Reducing Chronic Absence

**April 7, 2026
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm**



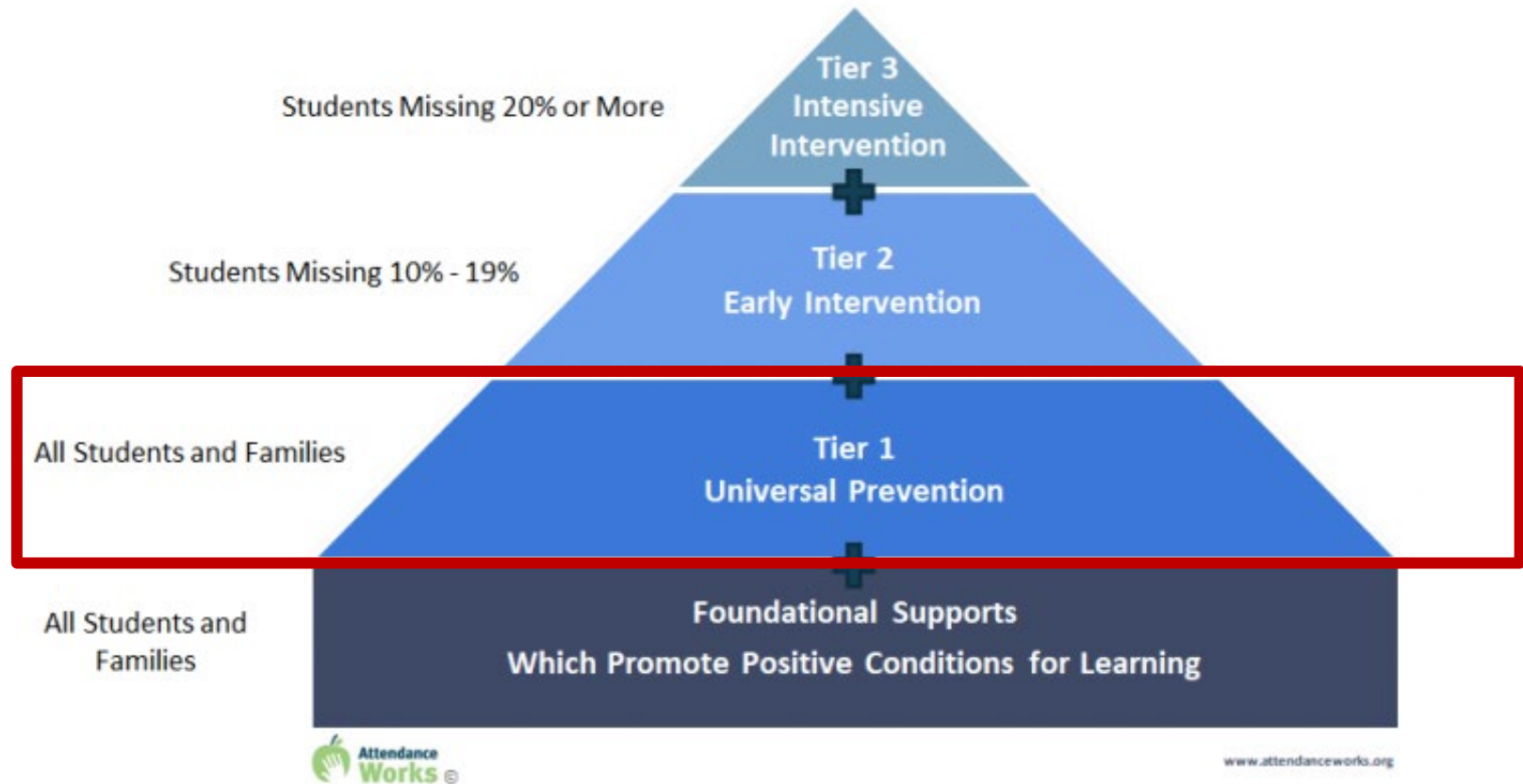
Save the Date



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Attendance Playbook – Tiered Interventions

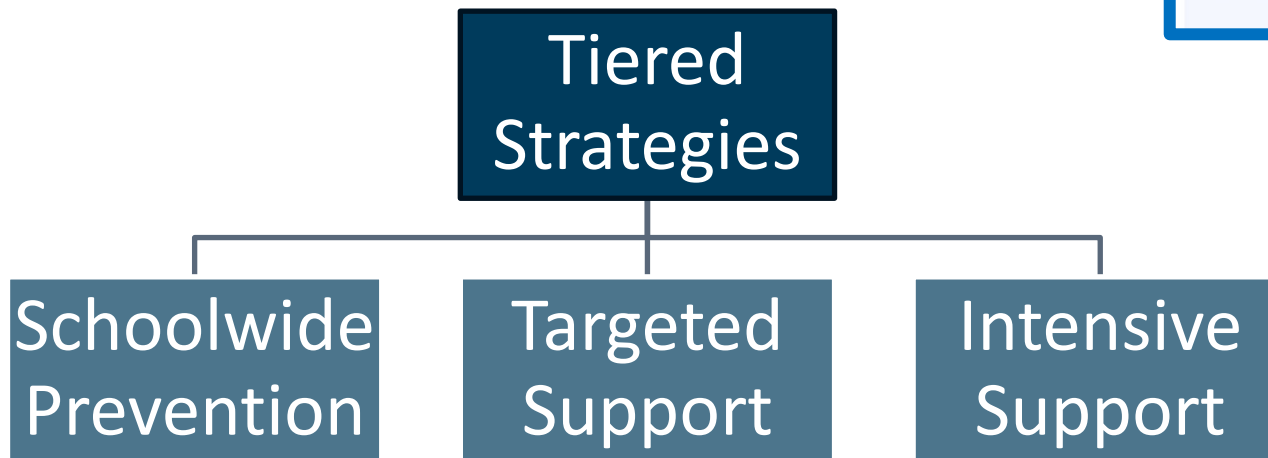
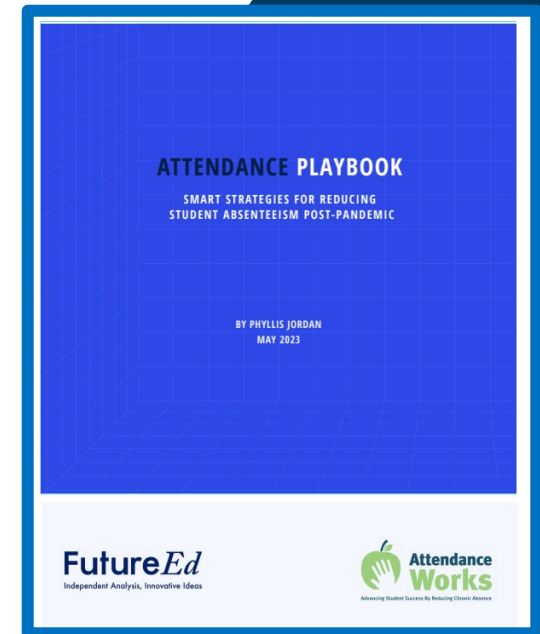
Tiered Supports for Improving Attendance



Source: Attendance Works; <https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/addressing-chronic-absence/3-tiers-of-intervention/>

Attendance Playbook

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



HEALTHY SCHOOL BUILDINGS



UPDATE ON ASTHMA AND
CLEANERS



MULTIPLE BUILDING SYSTEMS
NEEDING UPDATES OR
REPLACEMENT

- **Impact of Building Conditions**
 - Poor school building conditions increase illness-related absences and disrupt student learning continuity.
- **Core Healthy Building Elements**
 - Adequate ventilation, effective cleaning, and handwashing protocols are essential for healthy schools.
- **Learning and Attendance Benefits**
 - Healthy buildings improve focus, behavior, academic engagement, and reduce chronic absenteeism.
- **Equity and Public Health**
 - Poor conditions disproportionately affect students in high-poverty districts, worsening health and educational outcomes.

School-Based Health Care



Illness is the No. 1 reason students miss school



Asthma → nearly 14 million missed school days (CDC)



Dental issues → 1/3 of absences among disadvantaged students

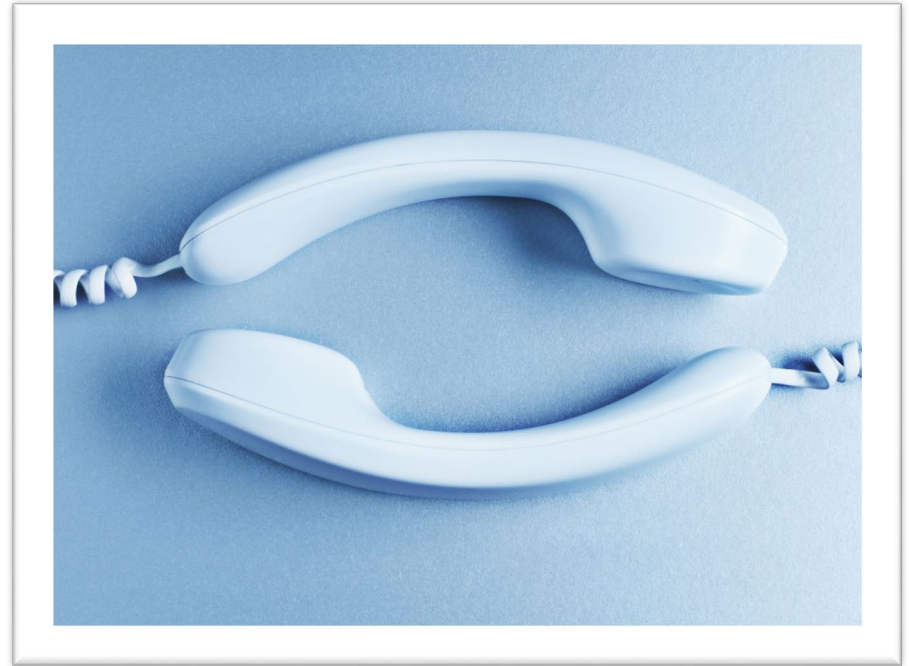


Pandemic worsened illness-related absences

[The Cost Benefit of Comprehensive Primary and Preventive School-Based Health Care](#)

Telehealth

- [BEACON](#): Centralized resource for behavioral health services for Illinois children and teens. Helps families learn about community-based programs, mental health centers, and state-funded supports.



Free Meals for All



Breakfast and Learning: The review evaluates recent evidence on breakfast consumption's effect on children's learning in industrialized nations.



It connects breakfast habits with health, cognitive function, mental health, and academic performance outcomes.

School Buses and Public Transit



- How Can School Transportation Affect Attendance and Achievement?
- Transportation Challenges Contribute to Absenteeism in many Places
- The type of bus transportation makes a difference

The Trip to School

Burdick-Will, Stein, and Grigg

Danger on the Way to School

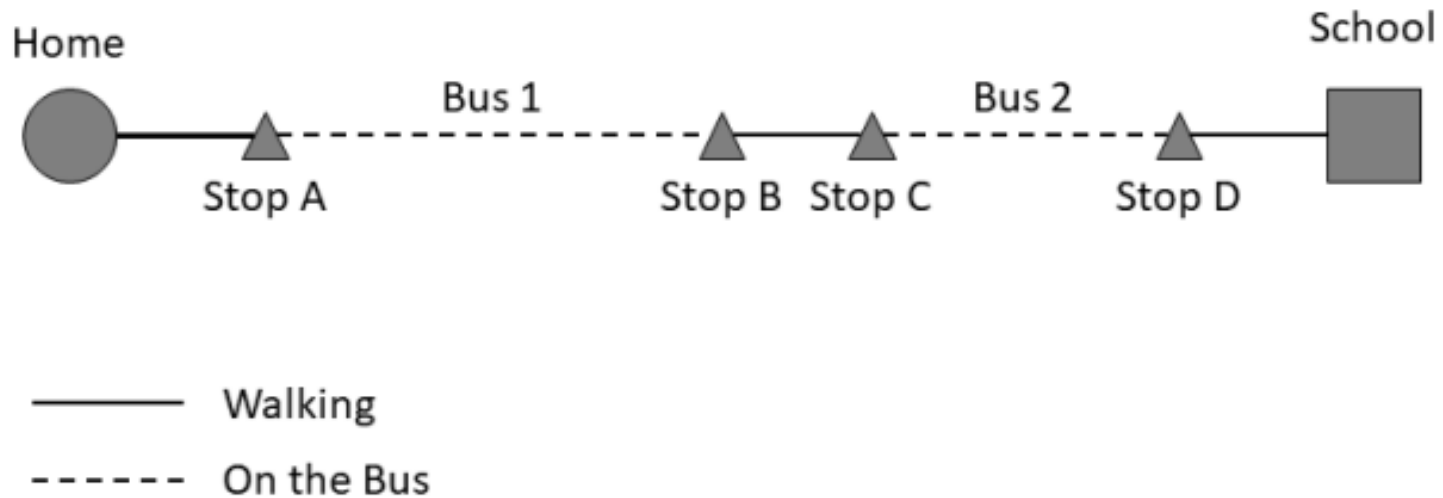


Figure 1: Example trip to school via public transportation.

A Safer Walk to School

- Neighborhood Violence
- Safe Passage
- The "walking school bus"



Laundry at School



[Catie's Closet](#)

Breakout Room Discussion

Tier I Strategies – Universal Supports

- Any experience with strategies?
- Implementation challenges
- A strategy you would like to try?

Healthy Buildings

Health Services

Telehealth

Free Meals for All

School Buses/Public Transit

A Safer Walk to School

Laundry at School

Want to learn more about Tiered Interventions for Attendance?

[Examples of tiered supports](#)

[Link to other resources for planning tiered responses for attendance](#)

Source: Attendance Works; <https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/addressing-chronic-absence/3-tiers-of-intervention/>

Intentional Close

Announcements



Next Meeting Date: April 15, 2026



Resources: All Materials and tools will be posted on the ISBE website

Contact Information

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Sarah Littrell: SLITTREL@isbe.net

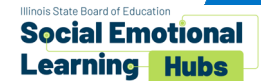
Theresa Olsen: tolsen@isbe.net

Email: everydaycounts@isbe.net

[ISBE Chronic Absenteeism Website](#)

SEL as a Strategy - Resources

- [Social-Emotional Learning Hubs](#)
 - Provide professional development, training, coaching and capacity building to schools, districts and ROEs to example SEL and trauma-responsive programming.
 - Provide coaching supports for RSSI
- [Resilience Supportive Schools Illinois \(RSSI\)](#)
 - Choose your focus: Trauma-Responsiveness, Social & Emotional Learning, Mental Health, Cultural Responsiveness, Anti-Racism & Equity
 - 15 question survey and build your plan with an SEL coach
- [Learning and Resource Hub](#)
 - FREE educational resource in support of strategies pertaining to social and emotional learning, trauma-responsive practices, mental health, and healing for both staff and students.
 - Approved provider for ISBE professional development.
 - *NEW information and modules added regularly.*



CASEL Resources



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

Thank you