




Every Day Counts Cohort Meeting

April 15, 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

Resilience Reflection

- Mindful activity to help us become aware of biases and combines self-resilience and positive self-talk to decrease negativity bias.
- Helps deal with stress and supports mental health



- I HAVE _____ (reflect on a support in your life)
- I CAN _____ (express things that you can do)
- I AM _____ (express positive or productive words)

Resilience Reflection



SELF-AWARENESS



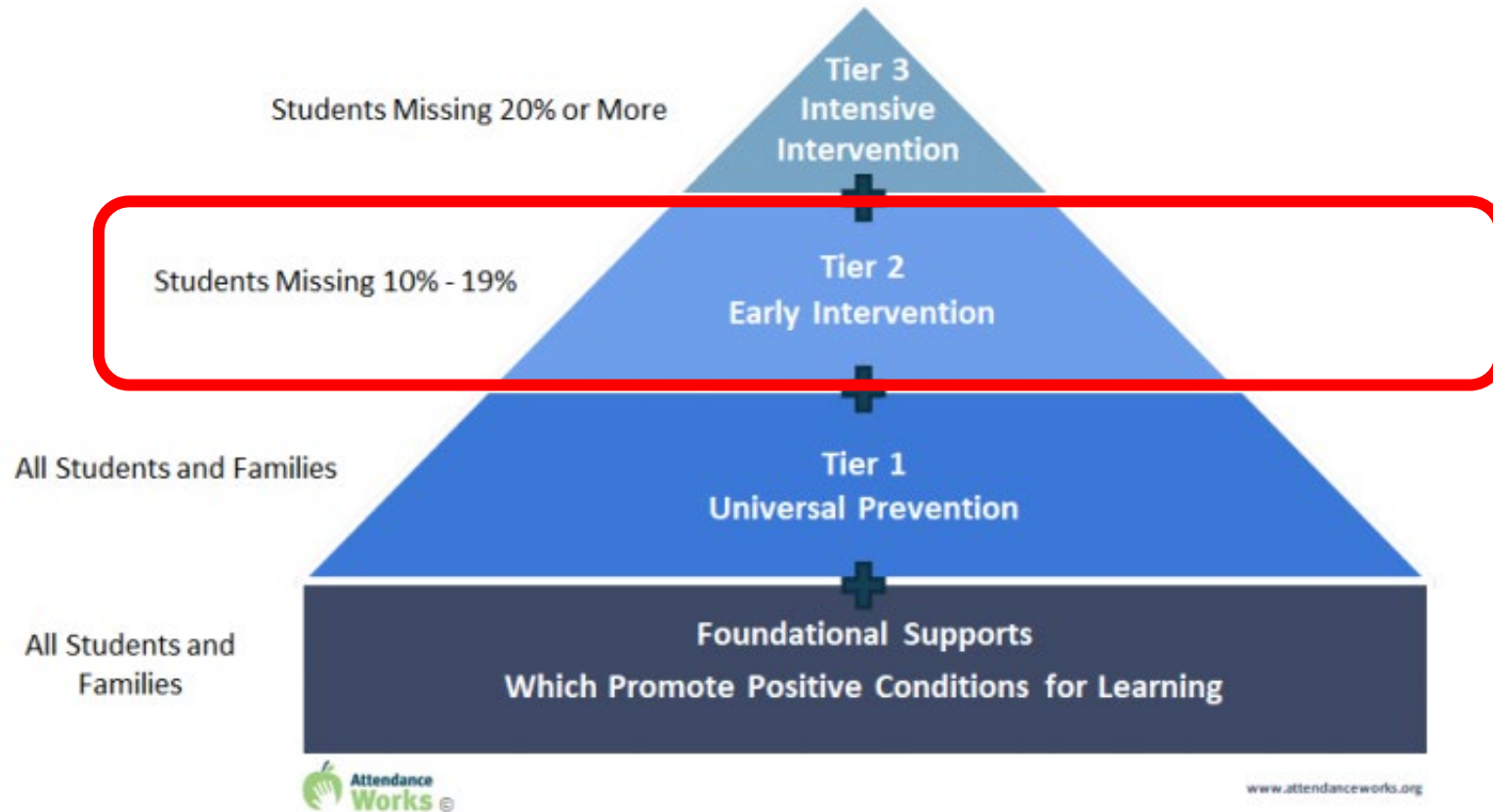
SELF-
MANAGEMENT



RESPONSIBLE
DECISION-MAKING

Attendance Playbook – Tiered Interventions

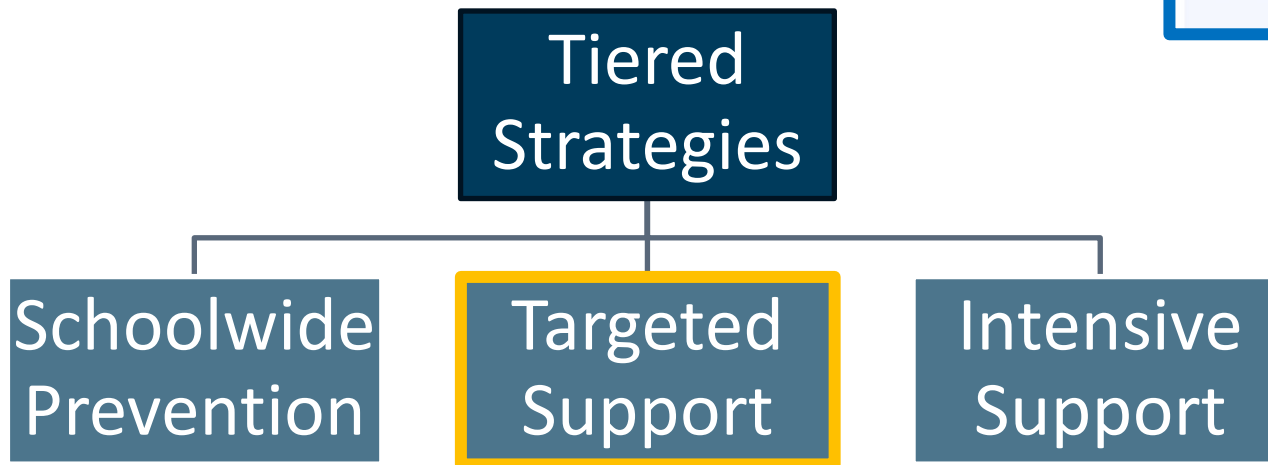
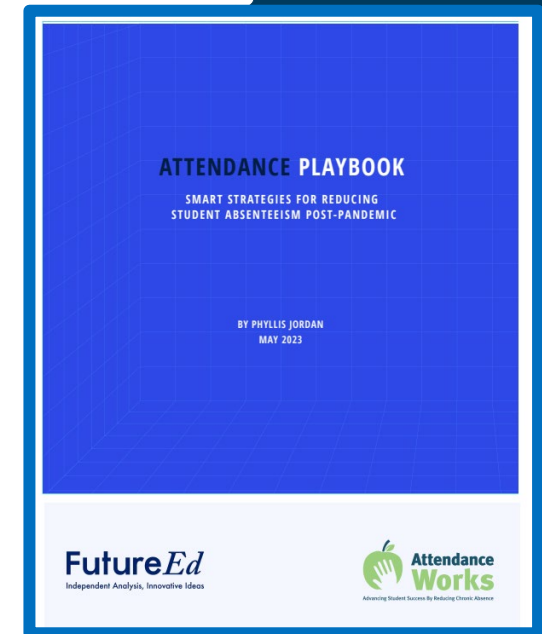
Tiered Supports for Improving Attendance



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



Students with Disabilities

Higher Absenteeism rates among students with disabilities

Link between attendance, emotional needs, and academic success

Resource:

<https://nceo.umn.edu/docs/OnlinePubs/NCEOBrief15.pdf>

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/016146811912100808>

Effective Interventions



TELEHEALTH FOR PHYSICAL
AND MENTAL HEALTH
NEEDS



INCLUSIVE PRACTICES THAT
BUILD BELONGING



RESTORATIVE APPROACHES

Health-Related Absenteeism Causes

Students with disabilities miss school due to chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes, and epilepsy.

Addressing Asthma

- Drivers of Absence
 - Acute flare-ups from respiratory or environmental exposures escalate into multi-day absences.



Educational Intervention

- **Core Focus Areas**

Programs teach families proper medication use, trigger identification, and avoidance, recognizing early warning signs, and knowing when to seek medical attention.

- **Cultural Responsiveness**

Programs are most effective when tailored to communities addressing language barriers, limited healthcare access, and housing instability through additional follow-up support.





From Attendance Improvement to Academic Recovery Through Targeted Supports

Mentors and Tutors



Mentors and Tutors

What Makes Mentoring and Tutoring Work

Mentoring Benefits and Tutoring Benefits

The Bottom Line (Impact) – Why these Strategies Work

Takeaway



Targeted Youth Engagement

Programs Build Skills



PROBLEM
SOLVING



SELF- CONTROL



EMOTIONAL
REGULATION

Impact & Considerations

Positive Action Programs

B.A.M Becoming a Man Program

Y.A.P Youth Advocate Program

Considerations

Breakout Room Discussion

Tier 2 Strategies – Early Interventions

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

Addressing Asthma

Educational
Interventions

Mentors and Tutors

Targeted Youth
Engagement

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

Next Steps...

What is **one strategy** you learned about today that you would like to focus on in your school or district?

Self-management

Responsible Decision
Making

Announcements



Next Meeting Date: May 20, 2026



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

Contact Information

Carl Amos: camos@isbe.net

Nanette Coley: ncoley@isbe.net

Sarah Littrell: SLITTREL@isbe.net

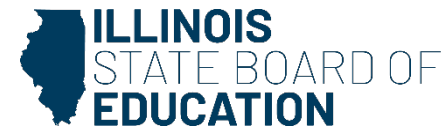
Theresa Olsen: tolsen@isbe.net

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