

The background is a collage of various school and technology-related items. At the top left is a white computer keyboard. Below it is a book cover for 'iPod и iPod touch' in Russian. To the right is a row of colorful books standing upright. In the center, a smartphone with a home screen full of app icons is placed on top of an open book. The book has logos for 'conEdison' and 'ILC' on its left page, and 'University Science Park' on its right page. Below the keyboard is a piece of graph paper with a pencil and an eraser. On the far left is a decorative brown bowl. On the far right is a purple folder or book.

Promoting School Attendance in West Chicago District 33 Illinois Attendance Commission May 17, 2019

Presenters

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Who We Are

West Chicago SD 33: Who We Are

- District serves 4,458 students in 1 Middle School, 6 Elementary Schools, 4 Preschools
- Demographics: 81% Hispanic, 13% White, 3% Black, 3% Asian
- 53% English learners, 56% Low Income, 16% Students with IEPs

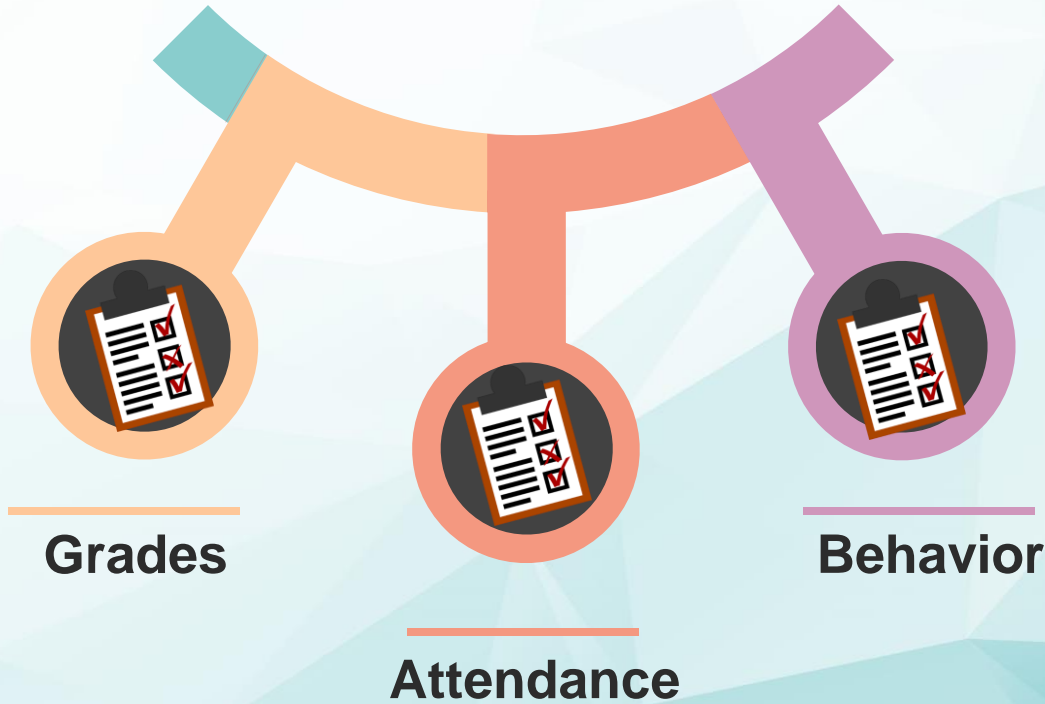




West Chicago's Model for Improving School Attendance

Heat Map

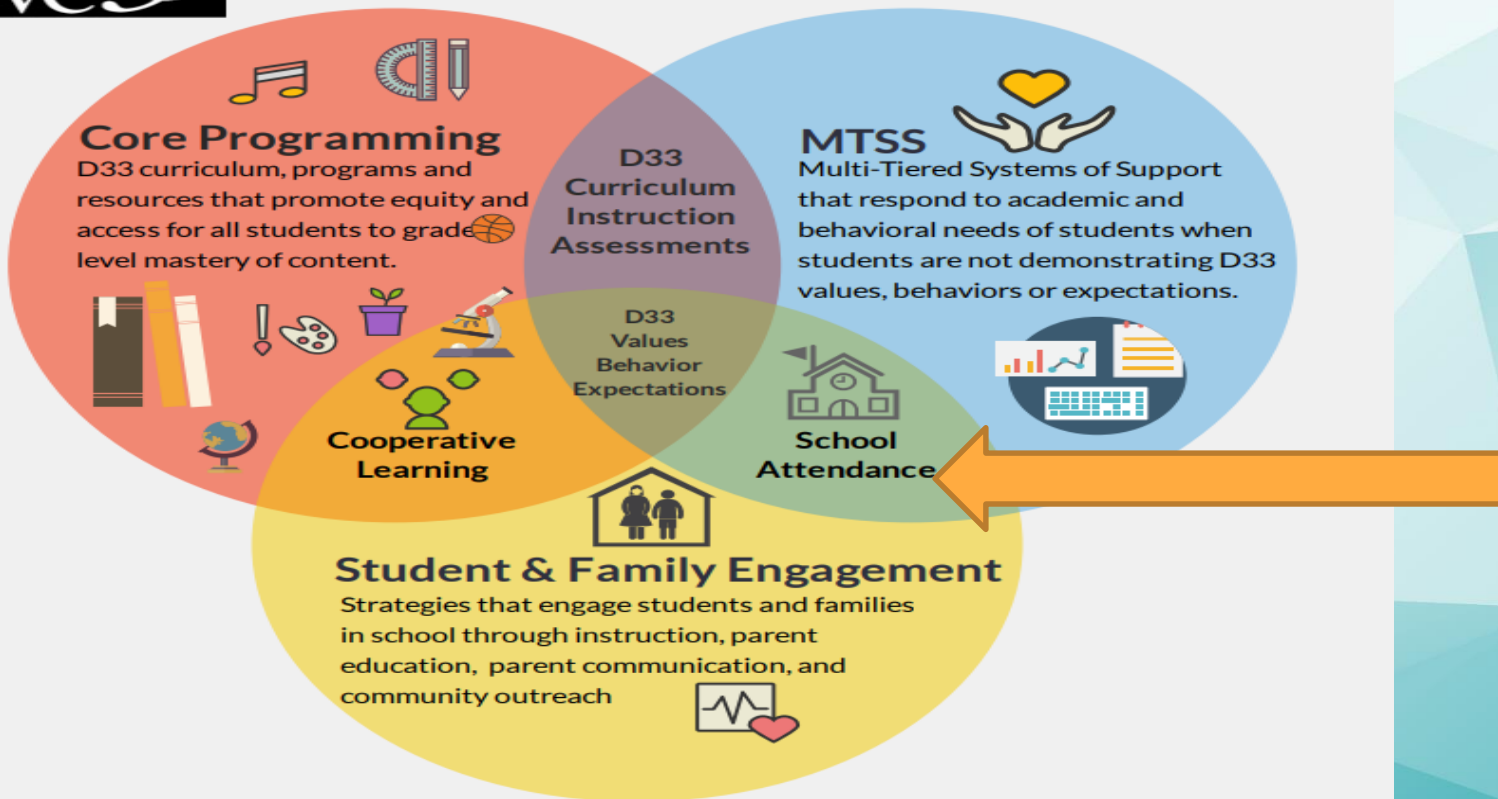
Early Warning System





DISTRICT DRIVERS

High Impact Strategies

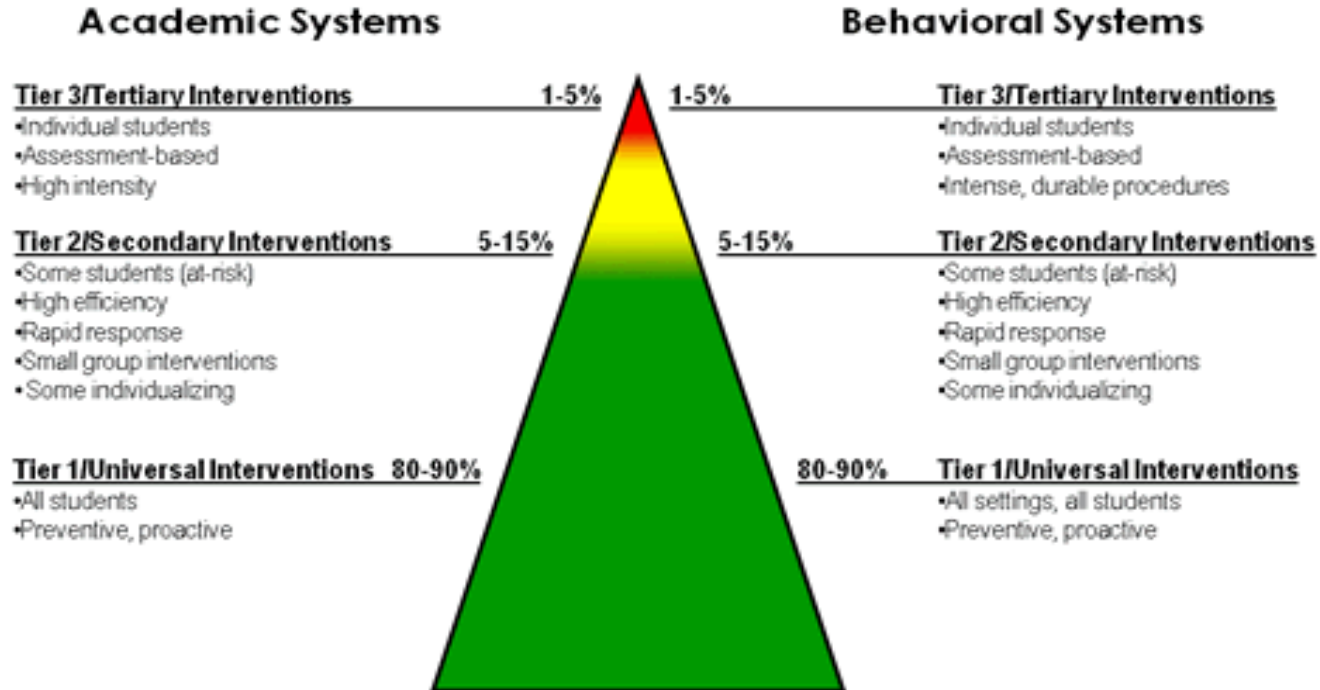


Getting Started

Initial Professional Development and Strategic Planning

- Initial professional development provided by Drs. Graczyk and Celinska in Spring 2018
 - Focus: Evidence-Based Practices organized within a Multi-Tiered System of Supports framework
 - Three ½-day workshops for district and school administrators and other staff who would have major responsibilities in implementing plan
- “Roll-out” plan developed by district administrators and Drs. Graczyk and Celinska, currently being implemented, the **“D33 Attendance Monitoring System”** – to be discussed later

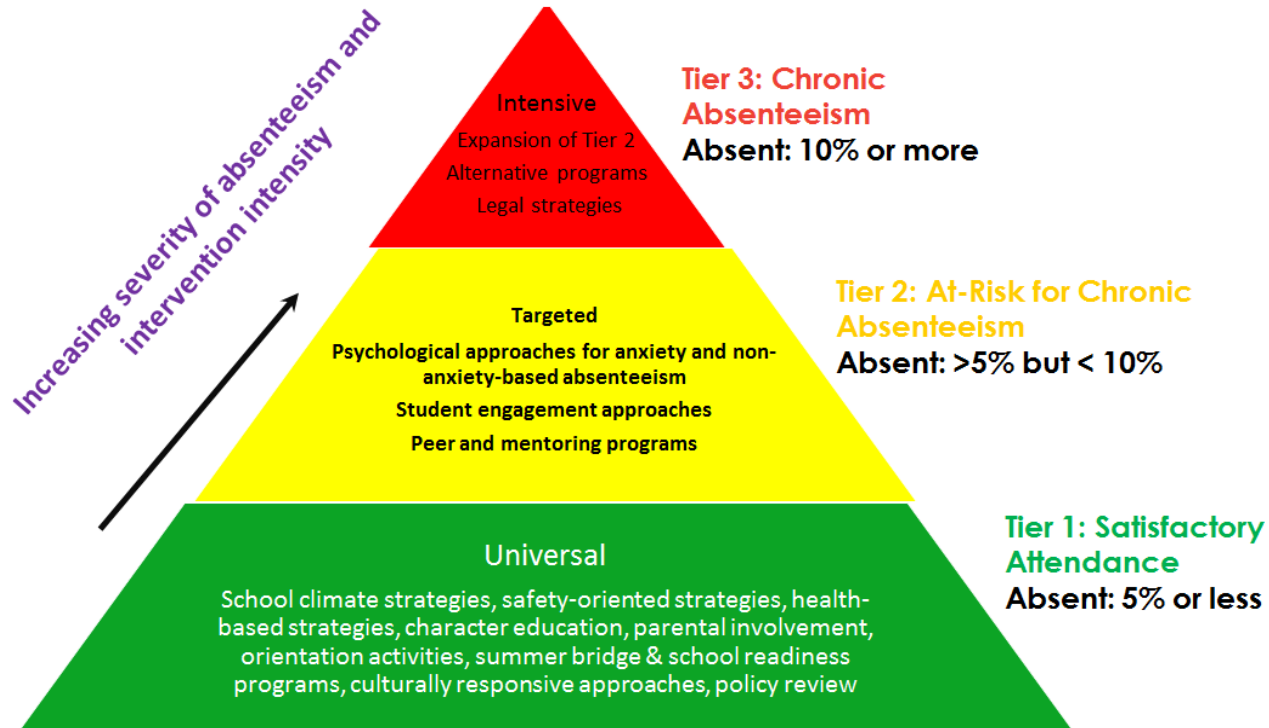
School Staff Can Apply What They Already Know about RTI/MTSS to Attendance



D33's Foundational Model of MTSS

RTI/MTSS model for problematic school absenteeism with Cut Scores

Kearney & Graczyk (2014)



District 33 Attendance Monitoring System

- Provides definition of key terms
- Specifies “non-negotiables”

Illinois Non-negotiables in Monitoring Attendance

The following represents tasks that need to occur in monitoring and addressing attendance:

- **Intervention Team:** principal or designee, school psychologist, school social worker, school nurse, MS counselors, classroom teacher(s)
- **Tier 1** – absent 5% or less

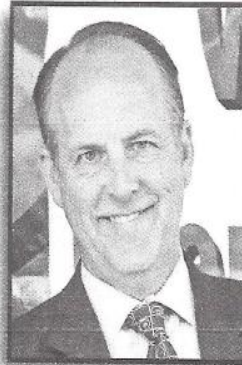
Timeline	Required Tasks/ Non-negotiables	Responsible	Accountable	Communi- cation Format	Inform
Yearly	School attendance will be incorporated into the annual district Improvement Plan (DIP) and School Improvement Plans (SIPs) as a goal area	Principals, Dep’t for Student Services	Ad Council	SIP Status Visits, Data Retreat	Parents, Teachers, Students, Community
Quarter 1 (Beginning of school year)	Principal designates Intervention Team: Staff member responsible for attendance data, school social worker, school nurse, MS counselors, teacher reps	Intervention Team	Principal	Electronic Template	Sup’t., Classroom Teachers
Quarter 1	Establish problem-solving process to identify potential barriers and additional supports and practices to improve attendance for all students	Intervention Team	Principal	MTSS Agendas	Principal, Classroom Teachers
Weekly	Weekly attendance data review by administrator or administrator designee	Admin Designee	Principal	Electronic Template	Intervention Team
Monthly	Monthly attendance data review by intervention team	Intervention Team	Admin Designee	Team Data Meeting, Electronic Template	Building Level Teams

Examples of Strategies by Tiers

Tier 1: Promoting a Culture of Attendance – Examples of Tier 1 Strategies

- Participates in Attendance Works' Attendance Awareness Month
- Newsletter
- Newspaper article
- Social Media

A Letter from the Superintendent



Across the district, schools are making goals to reduce the number of students who are chronically absent - those who miss more than 10% of active school days.

One area of concern is the rate of absenteeism in the early grades. We are seeing particularly high rates of children being absent during the first few weeks of kindergarten. This is troubling because kindergarten is a critical transition for learning. Evidence suggests that academic readiness acquired in pre-school and at home can lose its effectiveness with high levels of absenteeism in the early years.

Universal


Tier 1

Tier 1 Examples :

- “Nudge” letters
- Dental/Medical Offices (letter to offices) – “Attendance Friendly” offices
- Churches – enlisting support from religious leaders about the importance of school attendance

Universal

Tier 1



Leman Middle School

238 E Hazel St
West Chicago, IL 60185
Phone: (630)293-6060
Lea Deluca

November 14, 2018

Natalia Romero Juan Perez
4N125 Norris Ave

Student ID: 20325
Grade: 08
Homeroom: ~~0808~~-LIT
Teacher: Joshua J Rollins

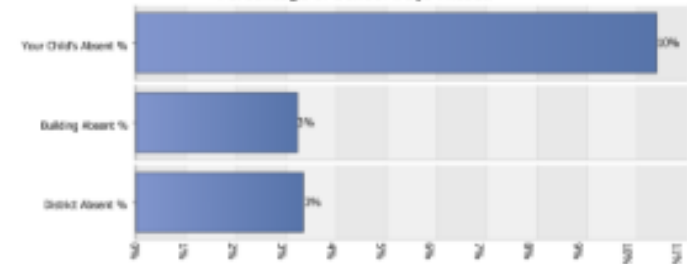
Dear Parents/Guardians,

In District 33 we care about your child and are concerned about his/her school attendance and progress. It has been shown that regular school attendance would help your child do well in school.

A review of our attendance records show that so far, Tania Perez has missed 5.5 out of 53 days this school year - or 10%. This is more than the typical student at our school or in the district for the same grade.

This causes us great concern because research shows a clear relationship between school attendance and a student's academic success. In fact, that same research shows a relationship between poor attendance and students dropping out of school. As a district, our goal is to have all students in school at least 95% of the time.

Percentage of School Days Missed



We would like to work with you in maintaining the best possible attendance record for your child. We will contact you to discuss any assistance that you might need. If you have any questions, please call the school.

Sincerely,

Lea Deluca
Principal

Tier 1 Examples: Community Schools Component

- Dental van
- Health visit
- Immunizations and flu shots
- Vision screenings by Lions Club @ Community Events
- “Walk with the Mayor”
- Food pantry
- Cooking classes
- Parent coaching
- Clubs and activities (school and partners)

Universal


Tier 1

Tier 1: Culturally Relevant Educational Programming



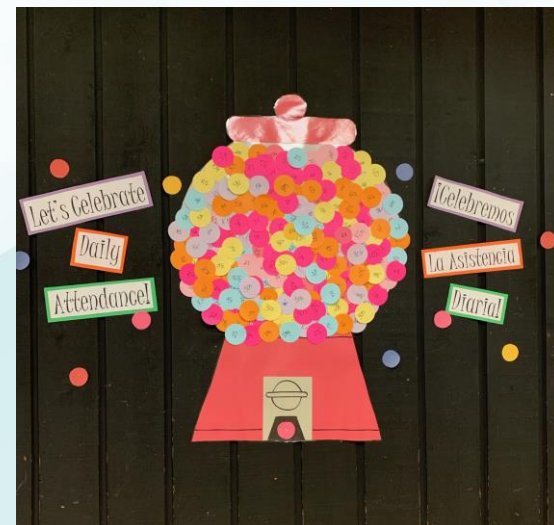


IK's Attendance is Poppin'!

In an effort to improve IK's attendance, our Community Schools Committee has created a new initiative to get students excited.

Each day that your child's classroom has perfect attendance, their class will earn one piece of popcorn to add to IK's giant popcorn machine bulletin board. Once the school has collectively filled up our popcorn machine, we will have a school-wide dance party with popcorn! We hope you will encourage your child to help us reach this goal and keep good attendance a priority!

Thank you!



Tier 2: Examples of Targeted Interventions

Strategies

- Family as partners
- Check In, Check Out
- Mentoring
- Tutoring
- On-site community partners
- Summer School
- Re-entry conference for “majors”

Reinforcements

- “Good News” letters for those improving and off the at-risk list
- Personal positive reinforcement contact with deans (middle school)

Targeted

Tier 2

Tier 3: Examples of Intensive Supports

- Functional behavior assessment (FBA) to ID reason why behavior is occurring and to help development of effective behavior improvement plans
- Cognitive-behavioral strategies relevant to school attendance issues
- Summer Bridges program

Intensive


Tier 3

Tier 3: Examples of Intensive Supports

- Family Partnerships even more critical
- Community Partnerships even more necessary to address student and family needs
- Checklist to guide planning for re-entry following extended absences or psychiatric hospitalizations

Intensive



Tier 3

Results

Our Results So Far...

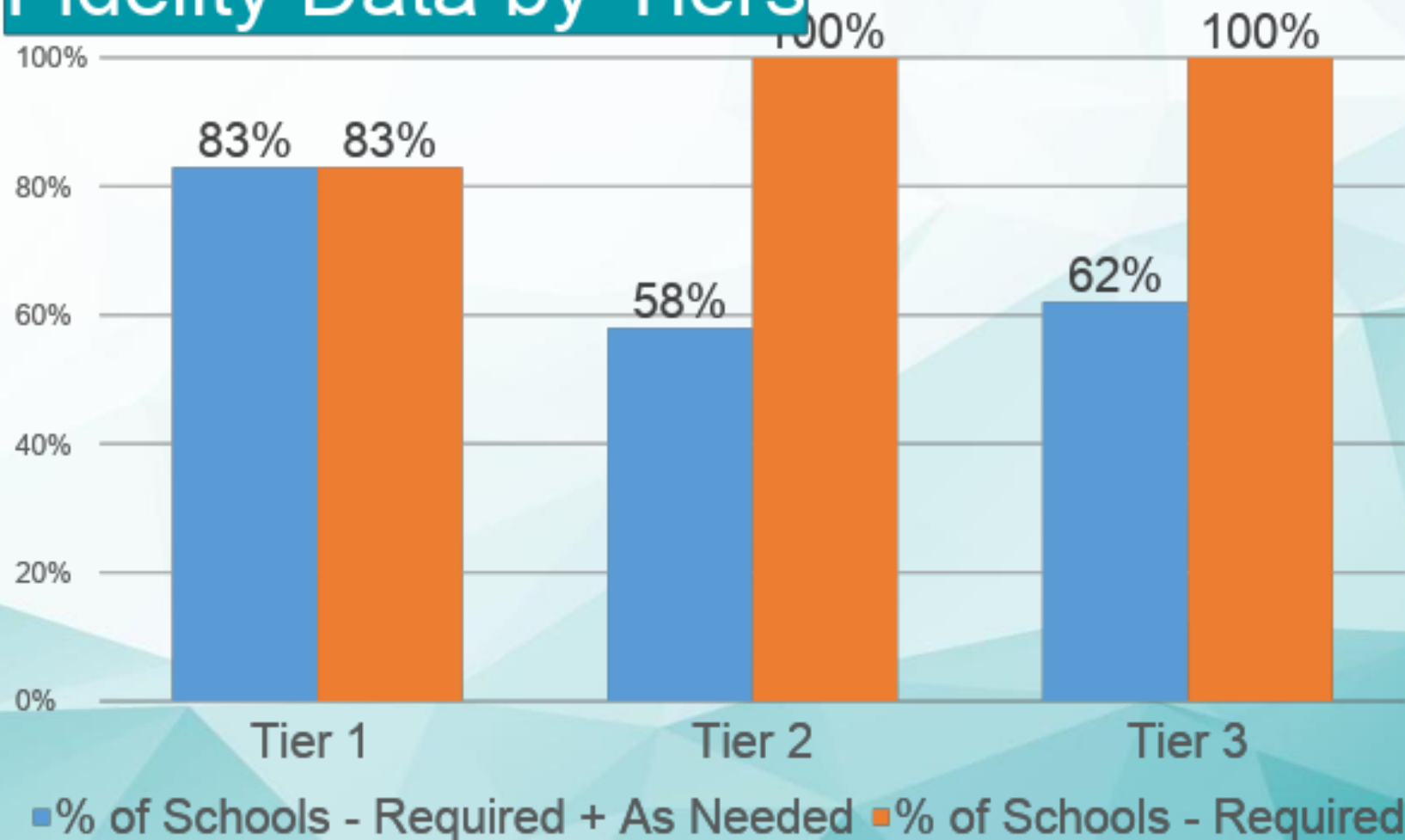
	Number of Student Chronically Absent - District		
	Fall Semester 2018	Fall Semester 2019	Change
Reported	499*	470	-29 (-5.8%)
Including “Winter Drops”	540	470	-70 (- 12.96%)

* Does not include student disenrolled due to extended winter breaks (10 successive days)

Our Results So Far...

- Clear understanding of the impact of extended Winter Break
- Clarified practices related to attendance taking and reporting
- Developed system for Family Liaisons to address chronic absenteeism and provide linkage and access to other services
- System of Fidelity: Clearly defined protocols, survey of implementation integrity

Fidelity Data by Tiers





Take Home Points

- There are *evidence-based practices* to promote attendance that align well with a *Multi-Tiered System of Supports* framework
- Schools can use *data* for strategic decision-making and to monitor effectiveness
- Attendance should be a major focus of district and school *strategic plans*