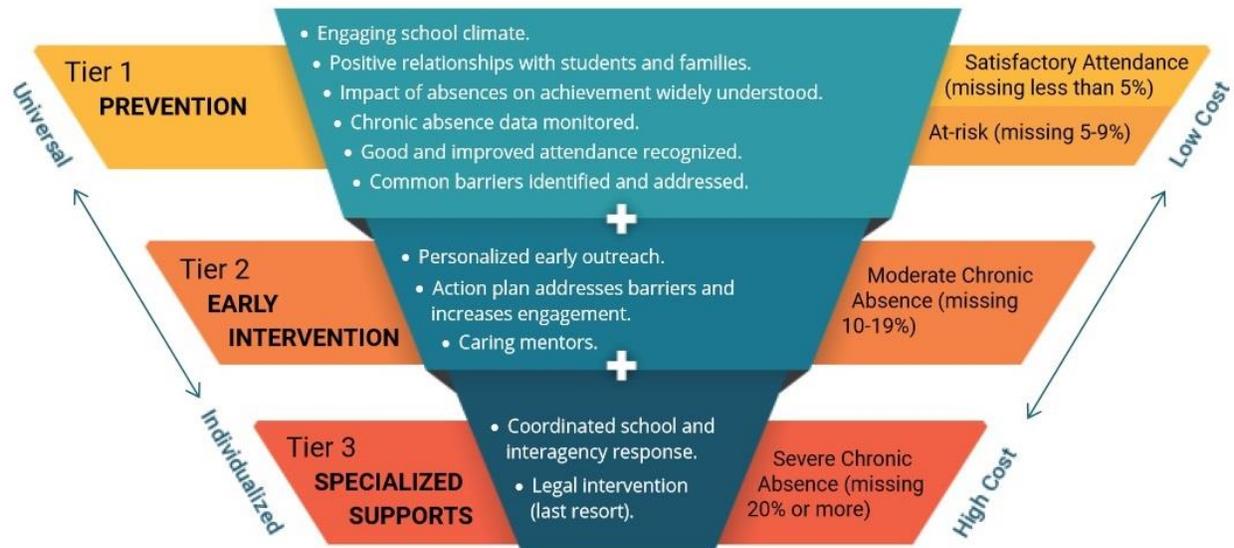


A Tiered Approach to Chronic Absence

Addressing chronic absence is most effective with a tiered approach. This includes beginning with universal prevention for all students, early intervention and finally more intensive supports. The goal of looking at attendance data based on these tiers is to spend most of your effort on Tier 1 and Tier 2 to limit the number of students who fall into Tier 3. Here are some examples of Tier 1 and Tier 2 activities.



Tier 1 Activities

- Share a clear definition of good attendance with teachers, parents and the whole school community.
- Show parents, teachers, and the school community how chronic absence impacts academics.
- Assure that classroom instruction is engaging and makes students want to come to school everyday.
- Make personal phone calls or send personal messages to parents letting them know when their child has done something positive academically or behaviorally.
- Attendance messaging campaigns for your school community can be done through bulletin boards, posters, banners, newsletters, social media, and t-shirts; invite students to help shape the content.
- Use morning/afternoon announcements to recognize students or classes with good or improved attendance.
- Greet students every morning as they enter the school.
- Make parents feel welcome when they enter the school, including having staff that speak their language.
- Create classroom/school-wide competitions focused on attendance.

- Reward good and improved attendance with small incentives like turning lunch into an attendance celebration, providing a special treat or snack or giving extra recess time.
- Use school structures such as clubs, advisories, homerooms, and morning meetings to create connections between the students and school.
- Review chronic absence data every two weeks to look for individual students and/or subgroups of students whose attendance is headed in the wrong direction.

Tier 2 Activities

- Organize student reflection/focus groups to help identify the barriers to attendance.
- Conduct home visits with families who are not responding to calls and other forms of communication.
- Provide tutoring or other academic supports to students who need extra help to succeed in school.
- Identify students who are chronically absent and pair them with an adult or older student mentor in the building. Mentors should check in with students three times per week and call anytime they miss a day of school.
- Engage community partners to support afterschool programs and in-school health services.
- Explore applying for the Community Eligibility Provision or Provision 2 so breakfast and lunch can be offered to all students at no cost.
- Identify and address systemic barriers that cause children to miss school (e.g., mold in the building that triggers asthma, a pattern of absence from a particular neighborhood, etc.).