League of California Cities Executive Forum

Student Success Provides the Building Blocks for Thriving Communities

Monterey, CA ~ June 29, 2017
The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading focuses on the most important predictor of school success and high school graduation — grade-level reading by the end of third grade.

**Schools cannot succeed alone.** The academic success of children from low-income families will require engaged communities mobilized to remove barriers, expand opportunities, and assist parents to serve as full partners in the success of their children.
The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading initially is focusing on three challenges to reading success that are amenable to community solutions:

- **The Readiness Gap:** Too many children from low-income families begin school already far behind.

- **The Attendance Gap (Chronic Absence):** Too many children from low-income families miss too many days of school.

- **The Summer Slide (Summer Learning Loss):** Too many children from low-income families lose ground over the summer months.
Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

“Statisticks”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52KuhCpiOUE&t=16s
Momentum Is Building!

More than 300 communities in **42 states** across the nation, as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands with 3,800 local organizations and 250+ state and local funders, including 168 United Ways.

For a full listing of Grade-Level Reading Network Communities, visit gradelevelreading.net
In California

Participating communities include:

- Buena Park
- Berkeley
- Chula Vista
- Fresno
- Kern County
- Long Beach
- Los Angeles
- Oakland
- Orange County
- Pacoima Community Initiative (LA County)

- Richmond
- Sacramento
- Salinas
- San Francisco
- San Jose
- San Mateo County
- Santa Barbara County
- Santa Cruz County
- Stanislaus County
- Stockton
- Truckee/Tahoe

*San Diego, City of Duarte, Woodlake
Today’s Speakers

Hedy Nai-Lin Chang
Executive Director, Attendance Works

Patrice Chamberlain, Director, California Summer Meal Coalition, Institute for Local Government

Preston Prince
Executive Director/CEO, Fresno Housing Authority
Reducing Chronic Absence

Why does it matter? What can we do?
Why Does Attendance Matter?

4 A School Success Framework

- Attainment Over Time
- Achievement Every Year
- Attendance Every Day
- Advocacy For All

Developed by Annie E. Casey Foundation & America’s Promise Alliance
For more info go to http://www.americaspromise.org/parent-engagement-toolkit
### Multiple Measures of Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Daily Attendance</strong></td>
<td>How many students show up to school every day? The percent of enrolled students who attend school each day. It is used in some states, including CA for allocating funding.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Truancy</strong></td>
<td>Who is missing school without permission? Typically refers only to unexcused absences. Each state has the authority to define truancy and when it triggers legal intervention.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chronic Absence</strong></td>
<td>Who is missing so much school they are academically at risk? Broadly means missing too much school for any reason—excused, unexcused, etc. CA defines it as missing 10% of school. Chronic absence is a required reporting metric and an optional measure for school improvement in ESSA. Chronic absence data will be available on-line in Fall 2017 from CA Dept of Education.</td>
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Improving Attendance Matters Because it Reflects:

✓ **Exposure to language:** Starting in Pre-K, attendance equals exposure to language-rich environments especially for low-income children.

✓ **Time on Task in Class:** Students only benefit from classroom instruction if they are in class.

✓ **On Track for Success:** Chronic absence is a proven early warning sign that a student is behind in reading by 3rd grade, failing courses middle and high school, and likely to drop-out.

✓ **College and Career Ready:** Cultivating the habit of regular attendance helps students develop the persistence needed to show up every day for college and work.

✓ **Engagement:** Attendance reflects engagement in learning.

✓ **Effective Practice:** Schools, communities and families can improve attendance when they work together.

(For research, see: [http://www.attendanceworks.org/research/](http://www.attendanceworks.org/research/))
### Unpack Contributing Factors to Chronic Absence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Myths</th>
<th>Barriers</th>
<th>Aversion</th>
<th>Disengagement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Absences are only a problem if they are unexcused</td>
<td>• Lack of access to health or dental care</td>
<td>• Struggling academically or socially</td>
<td>• Lack of engaging and culturally relevant instruction</td>
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<td>• Don’t realize just missing 2 days per month can affect learning</td>
<td>• Chronic illness</td>
<td>• Bullying</td>
<td>• No meaningful relationships with adults in school</td>
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<td>• Sporadic absences aren’t a problem</td>
<td>• Trauma</td>
<td>• Ineffective / exclusionary school discipline</td>
<td>• Vulnerable to being with peers out of school vs. in school</td>
</tr>
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<td>• Attendance only matters in the older grades</td>
<td>• No safe path to school</td>
<td>• Parents had negative school experience</td>
<td>• Poor school climate</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Poor Transportation</td>
<td>• Undiagnosed disability</td>
<td>• Discouraged due to lack of credits</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Housing instability</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• High mobility</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Involvement with child welfare or juvenile justice system</td>
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Invest in Prevention and Early Intervention
Possible Tier 2 Interventions

- Assign caring mentors
- Recruit for engaging before-or-after-school activities
- Partner with families/students to develop Student Attendance Success Plan
- Connect to Walk-to-School Companion
- Add attendance goals and supports to IEP
- Offer plan or contacts for health support

Priority Early Outreach for Positive Linkages and Engagement
Take a Data Driven Systemic Approach

**Positive Engagement:**
Uses caring relationships, effective messaging and a positive school climate to motivate daily attendance.

**Actionable Data:**
Is accurate, accessible, and regularly reported in an understandable format.

**Shared Accountability:**
Ensures chronic absence is monitoring & reinforced by policy.

**Capacity Building**
Expands ability to work together to interpret data, engage in problem solving, and adopt best practices to improve attendance.

**Strategic partnerships**
between district and community partners address specific attendance barriers and mobilize support for all ingredients.
Chronic Absence is Like a Warning Light on Your Car Dashboard

The Parallels:

✓ Ignore it at your personal peril!
✓ Address early or potentially pay more (lots more) later.
✓ The key is to ask why is this blinking? What could this mean?
Out-of-School Time: Strategies to Support Student Success, Thriving Cities
Out-of-School Time Environment Influences Wellbeing of Low-Income Kids

Where are the economically disadvantaged kids in your community when school is out?

- Parents are working
- Barriers to accessing summer enrichment programs
  - Cost, transportation, too few/don’t exist
Impact of Out-of-School Time in Low-Income Neighborhoods

**Food Access**
- 53% of parents have a hard time making ends meet in summer, $300 average additional food costs
- Additional Food costs compete with rent, utilities, meds

**Obesity**
- Weight gain may occur 2-3x faster in summer
- Obesity risk increases without access to healthy food or safe places to be active

**Learning Loss**
- Potential loss of 2-3 months in reading skills, cumulative impact on achievement gap

Sources: Share Our Strength, 2013; National Summer Learning Association, 2012
USDA Summer & Afterschool Meal Programs

• 2 million students rely on school breakfast & lunch programs

• Cities, schools, CBOS reimbursed to offer free, healthy meals (breakfast, lunch, snack, or supper) for kids 18 and under in low-income neighborhoods

• Meals available to all children – No paperwork for families

• Brings federal dollars to CA communities

• Built on community collaboration
Lunch @ the Library

- Partnership with California Library Association to establish public libraries as summer meal sites
  - Literacy & STEM, computer access, other library services
  - Generated community-wide collaborations with a range of agencies
  - Opportunities for community engagement

2013: 17 libraries  →  22,000 meals
2014: 65 libraries  →  88,000 meals
2015: 100 libraries  →  140,000 meals
2016: 139 libraries  →  200,000 meals
2017: 160 libraries

*Martinez Mayor Rob Schroder with local youth*
Cities as Bridges: The Role for Leaders

- **Bridge**: Benefits kids and families throughout the year, boosts city vitality

- **What city leaders can do:**
  - **Be the convener** of city, county school, CBOs
  - **Utilize city facilities** as meal sites
  - **Promote** local sites
  - **Connect** city departments to provide activities
  - **Extend the conversation** about the connections between inside/outside school walls
Contact

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@InstLocalGov
Building Strong Communities through Innovative Partnerships

Presented by
Preston Prince, CEO
Fresno Housing Authority
Three Legged Stool of Success

Professionalism
Policy
Partnership
Increasing Academic Achievement for Children

- Ensure all children are reading at grade level by 3rd Grade
- Attendance, Readiness, Extended Learning Environment
- Cradle to Career (C2C)
- MOU with School Districts
- Birth to 3rd Initiative (B3 Initiative)
- Columbia University partnership
Improving Health Outcomes

- To foster health interventions through housing
- A healthy person must have quality housing
- Community Regional Medical Center
- Facilitator
- Pre-Term Birth Initiative
- UCSF Evaluation
Employment & Wage Progression

- Reduce Historically High Unemployment Rate
- Affect both sides of housing – income and affordability
- Economic Development Corporation
- Facilitator
- Economic Opportunity Plan
- Internal Accountability Plan
Thank you

Presented by:

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Thank You!