

Every Student, Every Day

MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2018

8:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

Kauffman Foundation Conference Center
4801 Rockhill Rd, Kansas City, MO 64110

#KCSchoolAttendance

AGENDA

8:30 a.m. Registration and Breakfast

9 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Michelle Hogerty, Chief Operating Officer, United Way of Greater Kansas City

9:10 a.m. Hedy Chang, Executive Director, Attendance Works

10:10 a.m. Break

10:20 a.m. Workshop 1

11:20 a.m. Workshop 2

12:20 p.m. Lunch and Panel Discussion: *Reducing Chronic Absence: What Works*

Lunch Panel:

Awais Sufi, President & CEO, SchoolSmart Kansas City – Introduction

Hedy Chang, Executive Director, Attendance Works

Shauna McMillan, Director of School Initiatives, United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania

John Girodat, Education Program Consultant, Kansas State Department of Education

Derald Davis, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Innovation and Special Projects,

Kansas City Public Schools

Cokethea Hill, Director, Strategic Partnerships, School Smart KC (Facilitator)

1:25 p.m. Concluding Remarks

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. (Optional) Post-Summit Discussion: Using Data to Inform Strategy



SESSION 1: CHOOSE ONE

First Things First: Removing Barriers by Meeting Basic Needs

The social service safety net, comprised of the charitable, faith, and public sectors, plays an important role in ensuring that students' basic needs are met. Hear from social service providers who partner with schools and learn more about making effective referrals to support student and family needs that go beyond the school building.

Meeting Room: Kansas City

Panelists

Starla Brennan, Operations Director, Metro Lutheran Ministry
Kourtney Woodbury, Managing Director, Communities in Schools Mid-America, KC Metro
Jennifer Miller, United Way 2-1-1 Resource Center Manager

In School on Day One: Building Healthy Attendance Habits in the Preschool Years

Patterns of chronic absence emerge as early as Kindergarten. Early Education providers are in a unique position to empower parents to help their children make a successful transition to Kindergarten, including a commitment to making sure their child is there on the first day of Kindergarten, and maintain a high rate of attendance through the early years that are a critical foundation for later success.

Meeting Room: Brookside

Panelists

Diedre Anderson, Executive Director, United Inner City Services
Jillian Meriweather, Coordinator of Early Learning Programs, Hickman Mills C-1 School District
Leigh Anne Neal, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Early Childhood Education and Strategic Engagement,
Shawnee Mission School District
Jennifer Woolever, Principal, Roesland Elementary School, Shawnee Mission School District

Culture Counts: Building a Strong School Climate that Supports Attendance

The role of empathy and strong relationships with students and parents in fostering a strong school culture that supports attendance will be explored in this session. Hear from an expert on using a trauma-informed approach to relationship building with students and families.

Meeting Room: Paseo

Panelists

Jerrie Jacobs-Kenner, Ph.D., LCSW, Crittenton Children's Center, St. Luke's Hospital
Andy Campbell, Principal, Summit Ridge Academy, Lee's Summit School District
Kent Yocum, Ed.D., Principal, Brookridge Elementary, Shawnee Mission School District
Nicole Goodman, Executive Director, Scuola Vita Nuova Charter School

Slowing the Revolving Door: Addressing the Challenge of Student Mobility in Reducing Absences

Highly mobile students—those who experience housing instability, are in the foster care system, face homelessness or who change schools frequently for any reason—are among the most vulnerable of chronically absent students. Join this discussion to explore the facets of student mobility and approaches for supporting highly mobile students.

Meeting Room: Troost

Panelists

Anne R. Williamson, Ph.D., Victor and Caroline Schutte/Missouri Professor of Urban Affairs, Director, L.P. Cookingham
Institute of Urban Affairs, Department of Public Affairs, Henry W. Bloch School of Management,
University of Missouri – Kansas City
Mike Reynolds, Chief Research and Accountability Officer, Kansas City Public Schools
Bonnie Neal, LCSW, Mental Health Consultant, 17th Circuit Juvenile Center

SESSION 2: CHOOSE ONE

Beyond Awareness: Building Public Will to Tackle the Challenge of Chronic Absenteeism

Learn about effective approaches for using effective communication strategies to promote attendance and join a discussion to help lay the foundation for a planned community-wide public awareness campaign and call to action. Explore the role of parents, community leaders, businesses and other stakeholders in supporting school attendance.

Meeting Room: Kansas City

Panelists

Shauna McMillan, Director of School Initiatives, United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania

Dan Erholtz, Assistant Superintendent of Academic & Student Services, Harrisonville School District

Mark Bonavia, Principal, Bonavia Executive Communications, LLC

Healthy Students, Healthy School: Healthcare Access as an Attendance Strategy

Illness and access to care should not be barriers to learning. Even children with chronic health conditions or limited access can have good attendance if the proper attention is paid to their needs by parents, educators and healthcare providers. This session will consider proven strategies and explore new approaches for tackling the challenge locally.

Meeting Room: Brookside

Panelists

Mollie Robinson, RN, BSN, Senior Operations Manager, First Hand Foundation

Amanda Deacy, Ph.D., Child Psychologist, Children's Mercy Hospital; Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine

Mentoring as an Attendance Strategy:

An Evidence Based Approach to Using In-school Mentors to Reduce Absenteeism

Learn about the Success Mentors model for using positive adult role models as an intentional approach to reducing chronic absence. Hear from a district that has adopted this approach, using volunteer mentors—both internal (school employees) and external (from the community).

Meeting Room: Town Square

Panelists

Hedy Chang, Executive Director, Attendance Works

Derald Davis, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Innovation and Special Projects, Kansas City Public Schools

Combating Chronic Absenteeism: How a Holistic Strategy Makes all the Difference

Chronic absence often has compounding and lasting impacts on students' academic gains at all levels and poses a significant risk to the ultimate scholastic achievement – graduation from high school. Children living in poverty and those exposed to trauma are two to three times more likely to be chronically absent—and often face the most harm due to limited access to resources to make up for the lost learning in school. A diversified student population within the Independence School District has prompted its educators to take a more holistic approach to mitigating the impacts of chronic absenteeism, all the while supporting the needs of the whole student in every facet - from the classroom, to the neighboring community, to creating a caring and direct link in the home.

Meeting Room: Troost

Panelists

Merideth Parrish, Director of Family Services & Caring Communities, Independence School District

Nicole Sequeira, Family Services Coordinator/McKinney-Vento Liaison, Independence School District

Kellie Bowles, Family School Liaison, George Caleb Bingham Middle School, Independence School District

From Prevention to Intervention: Lowering Chronic Absenteeism Rates Through Targeted and Tiered Strategies

This session will explore a helpful framework for identifying what types of attendance interventions work for various groups of students, based on their levels of absenteeism. Additionally this session will review two prominent and promising research studies utilizing low-cost, simple communication approaches to engage parents in improving student attendance.

Meeting Room: Paseo

Panelists

John Girodat, Education Program Consultant, Kansas State Department of Education

Shannon O'Sullivan, Education Consultant, United Way; Educational Guardian for Foster Youth, Jackson County Family Court

OPTIONAL SESSION

What Gets Measured Gets Done: Using Data to Inform Strategies

Understanding the reasons that contribute to a school's chronic absence rate—and the proportion attributable to each—necessitates good data. Join this conversation around how to use attendance codes and data analysis to tell the story of a school or a district's absenteeism story and to choose strategies informed by that story.

Meeting Room: Kansas City

Panelists

Hedy Chang, Executive Director, Attendance Works

Shauna McMillan, Director of School Initiatives, United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania

THANK YOU!

*Thank you for being a part of the Every Student, Every Day Summit
Thank you to our presenters who made the summit possible.
And thanks to the steering committee members who helped
plan the summit:*

Mike English, Executive Director, Turn the Page KC

Elle Hogan, Director of Community Engagement, Turn the Page KC

Cokethea Hill, Director, Strategic Partnerships, School Smart KC

Shannon O'Sullivan, Education Consultant, United Way;

Educational Guardian for Foster Youth, Jackson Count Family Court

We look forward to partnering with you in this important work!

HOSTED BY



United Way
of Greater Kansas City

