

Meeting the Chronic Absenteeism Challenge: **Aligning Existing Resources & Forming Strategic Partnerships**



Attendance Solutions Network, Webinar Series Part 4
Dr. Robert Balfanz, Everyone Graduates Center, Johns Hopkins University
August 13, 2024

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Session Recaps & Links to Recordings
- Presentation
 - Aligning Existing Resources
 - Forming Strategic Partnerships
- Tools & Resources
- Good Strategies at Work
- Breakout Group Discussions
- Next Steps

Attendance Solutions Network

Thank you for joining us for Starting the School Year Strong: A Four-part Webinar Series!

What's next?

- **Optional Small Group Discussions** – continue the conversation with your peers:
 - August 20: 12:00-12:45 pm ET/9:00 am PT
 - [Register here](#)

Peer-to-Peer Learning Community Launches September 17th!

- [Register here](#)

Link to landing page where updates will be posted:

<https://www.partnershipstudentsuccess.org/attendance-solutions-network/>

Sessions 1, 2 & 3

Recaps

Session 1: Building a Plan: A Comprehensive Approach

- Understanding the Challenge
- Organizing Your Response
- Gathering & Aligning Resources

Session 2: Creating a Culture of Attendance

- School Connectedness
- Family Communication & Engagement

Session 3: Organizing for Success

- Using Data to Inform District & School Strategy
- Considerations for Attendance/Success Teams



- Dr. Robert Balfanz, Director Everyone Graduates Center, School of Education, Johns Hopkins University (JHU)



Scale & Intensity Of Attendance Challenge

REQUIRES A SYSTEMIC APPROACH

1

**Improvement
is Possible.**

2

**Know Your
Challenge.**

3

**Organize Your
Response.**

4

**Align Your
Resources.**

Gather & Align Resources:

FORM STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborate with local non-profits, health providers, government agencies, and colleges that have resources which meet identified gaps in student supports.

TAKE STOCK

Know what resources already exist and whether they address current challenges.

INTEGRATE INTO EXISTING EFFORTS

Enhance attendance focus of your strongest student support effort. (E.g. MTSS, PBIS, early warning systems, etc.) Integrate attendance improvement into key initiatives. (E.g. Science of reading, high dosage tutoring, school improvement, CTE, etc.)

Forming Strategic Partnerships

NPSS Hub Can Help Districts Identify & Form Strategic Partnerships

The NPSS Support Hub offers no-cost technical assistance to states, districts, schools, and other public or nonprofit entities working to implement, expand or improve tutoring, mentoring, student success coaching, post-secondary transition coaching, or wraparound/integrated support coordination for P-12 students in schools or in out-of-school time settings. The following national organizations serve as core technical assistance providers aligned to the priority services the NPSS provides. partnershipstudentsuccess.org/technical-assistance/

Academic Tutors



Student Success Coaches



Wraparound/Integrated Student Supports



Post-Secondary Transition Coaches



Mentors



NPSS Strategic Partnerships At Work

Higher Education

- A school district in New York City partnered with CUNY campuses to engage more college students in P-12 mentoring roles, through Federal Work Study jobs and credit-bearing service-learning coursework with the institution's School of Education

AmeriCorps

- [Minnesota Promise Fellows](#) serve as caring adults who support, mentor, and build positive relationships with young people in 6-12th grades on their path to high school graduation. Promise Fellows provide one-on-one and small group support to a group of students in a school or non-profit organization

Nonprofit

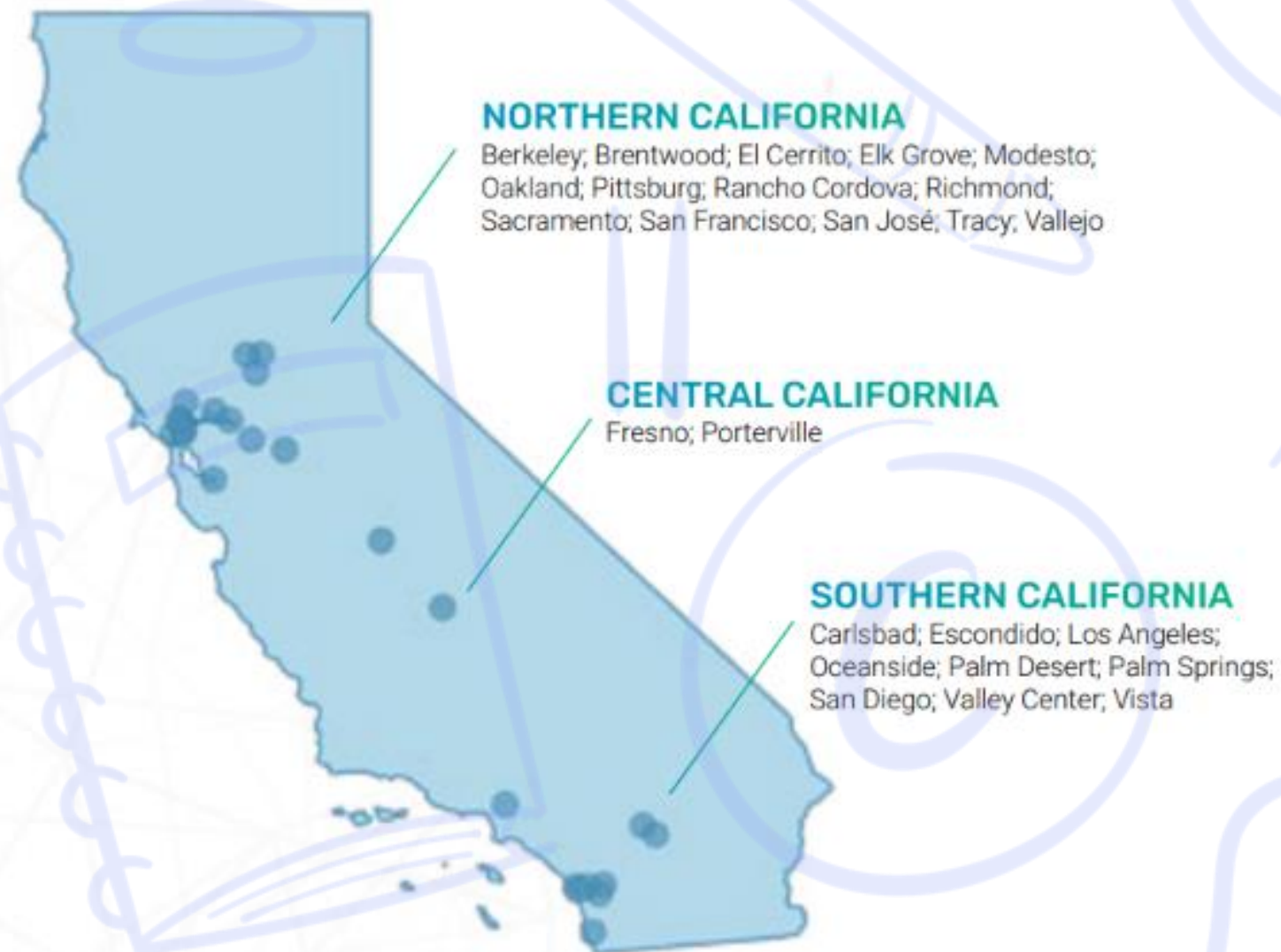
- [2024 Community Collaboration Challenge Awardee](#) Connecticut RISE Network supports districts across New England with an annual symposium dedicated to supporting students with the 9th grade transition by building a plan inclusive of strategies to increase school connectedness for this critical year

Strategic Partnerships to Support Success Coaching

- **Student Success Coaches** are an evidence based strategy to address chronic absenteeism. They provide integrated, relationship-driven social, emotional, academic, and youth development supports.
- **The California Student Success Coach Learning Network**, led by City Year in partnership with California Volunteers, is composed of 8 AmeriCorps programs partnered with 15 school districts that are working to grow the presence of SSCs while also reinforcing and strengthening the practice of student success coaching in regions such as LA, Sacramento, and San Jose to meet increased demand.

California Student Success Coach Learning Network At Work

More than 500 Student Success Coaches serve more than 31,000 students at 201 sites in California. SSCs are in 25 cities throughout the state.



Participating Districts

Northern CA:

1. Sacramento City Unified School District
2. Alum Rock Union School District
3. East Side Union High School District
4. San Francisco Unified School District
5. Alameda Unified School District
6. Berkeley Unified School District
7. Oakland Unified School District
8. Emery Unified School District

Central CA:

1. Fresno Unified School District
2. Porterville Unified School District

Southern CA:

1. Los Angeles Unified School District
2. Carlsbad Unified School District
3. Escondido Union High School District
4. Oceanside Unified School District
5. San Diego Unified School District
6. Valley Center-Pauma Unified School District:
7. Vista Unified School District
8. West Contra Costa Unified School District

Strategic Partnerships At Work: Full-service Community Schools

FSCS are public elementary or secondary schools that work with community organizations to provide a well-rounded education and meet students' needs. These needs include academic, social, emotional, physical, and mental health. FSCS schools coordinate and integrate services through partnerships with the community, such as educational, developmental, family, and health services.

Examples/Resources

- [Rochester, NY](#)
- [How Community Schools are Transforming Public Education](#)
- [Redesigning High School: 10 Features for Success](#)

Department of Education Office of Elementary and Secondary Education Funding Program

- <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-discretionary-grants-support-services/school-choice-improvement-programs/full-service-community-schools-program-fscs/>

Tools & Resources

NPSS Hub Supports for Strategic Partnerships

- [Technical Assistance](#)
- [Digital Backpack of Chronic Absence Resources](#)
- [Districts Addressing Chronic Absence Spotlights](#)
- [Voluntary Quality Standards](#)
- [Planning Toolkit for Community Collaboration Goal-setting Events](#)
- The [NPSS Higher Education Coalition](#) is a group of colleges and universities answering the [call to action](#) by working to support their communities to place more college students in high-impact jobs or volunteer positions as student success coaches, mentors, and more

Federal resources and funding support for strategic partnerships

- A range of federal resources can be used and braided to support NPSS roles consistent with all other program requirements. This [Department of Education Dear Colleague letter and non-exhaustive list](#) are excellent resources as districts [plan](#)

[From Success Coaches to Washing Machines: Ways to Help Kids Stay in School](#) (74million.org article on NYC community schools)

Good Strategies at Work



NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP
FOR *Student Success*

Stephanie Gregory

Director of Family Attendance Supports

Attend to Win

Tulsa Public Schools



Tulsa Public Schools

Attend to Win: A Comprehensive Strategy to Tackle Chronic Absenteeism in Tulsa



Tulsa Public Schools

ATTEND TO WIN: STRATEGIC ORGANIZATION

DISTRICT OFFICE

FAMILY ATTENDANCE SUPPORTS TEAM (FCYE)

DISTRICT POLICIES, PROCEDURES + REPORTING

CROSS FUNCTIONAL TRAINING + DEVELOPMENT

ACCURATE DATA ENTRY: REVIEW + MONITORING

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS: SURVEYS

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

SCHOOL SITES

ALL SITES

PILOT SITES (MRI)

ADA/CA GOAL

ATTENDANCE RECOVERY COORDINATOR

ATTENDANCE TEAM

ATTEND TO WIN FRIEND

TIER 1 STRATEGY

≥20% CA= FT PIF

SUCCESS PLANS

TALKING POINTS

INCENTIVES

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

CITY OF TULSA

IMPACT TULSA

CITYWIDE DATA COLLABORATORS

COMMUNITY ACTION FORUM



NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR Student Success

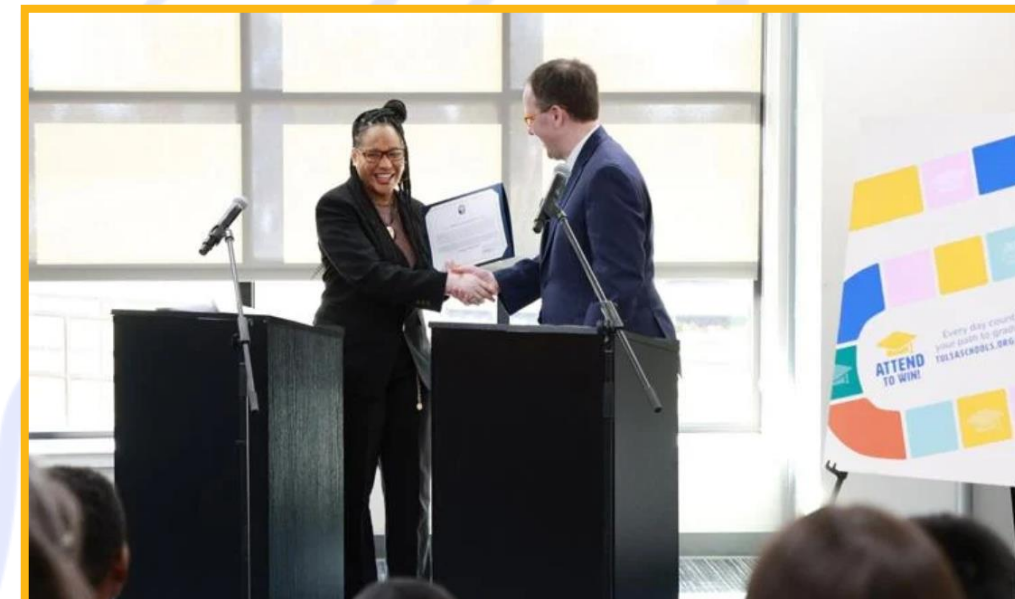
Tulsa Public Schools: Attend to Win Friend

- Mentor pilot at pilot school sites
 - Chronically absent student paired with mentor
 - Assigned at Success Plan meeting
 - Caring adults in the building
 - Weekly check-in (logged on data dashboard)
 - Phone call home for each absence
- Notes on Attend to Win Friend:
 - CGCS, integration with “like” partner programs
 - Currently looking for funding to grow the program and incentivize more mentors
 - Goal: expand for 25-26 SY



Tulsa Public Schools: Community Action

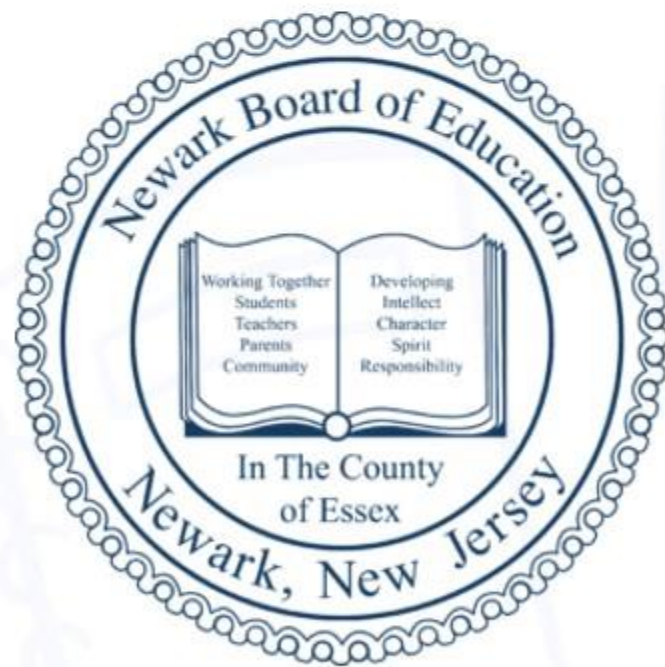
- **BIG FOUR LEVERS**
 - Transportation
 - Housing insecurity
 - Health (physical + mental)
 - Community Safety
 - **City of Tulsa**
 - Press conference to launch Attend to Win (February 7 “Attend to Win Day”)
 - Data-driven requests to Mayor
 - Crossing guards
 - Animal Control
 - City Councilor Town Halls
 - Site Celebrations
 - Marketing (water bill inserts, bus ads)
 - **Impact Tulsa**
 - Technical support and organizing
 - Citywide Data Contributors
 - Community Action Forums
 - 1.0 April
 - 2.0 August
 - Safe Paths to School
 - Community Wellness
- *election year, working with ACTION on mayoral candidates’ accountability



Edwin Mendez

Director of Attendance

Newark Public Schools, New Jersey



Dr. Shaunna Finley

Principal, District and Community Engagement

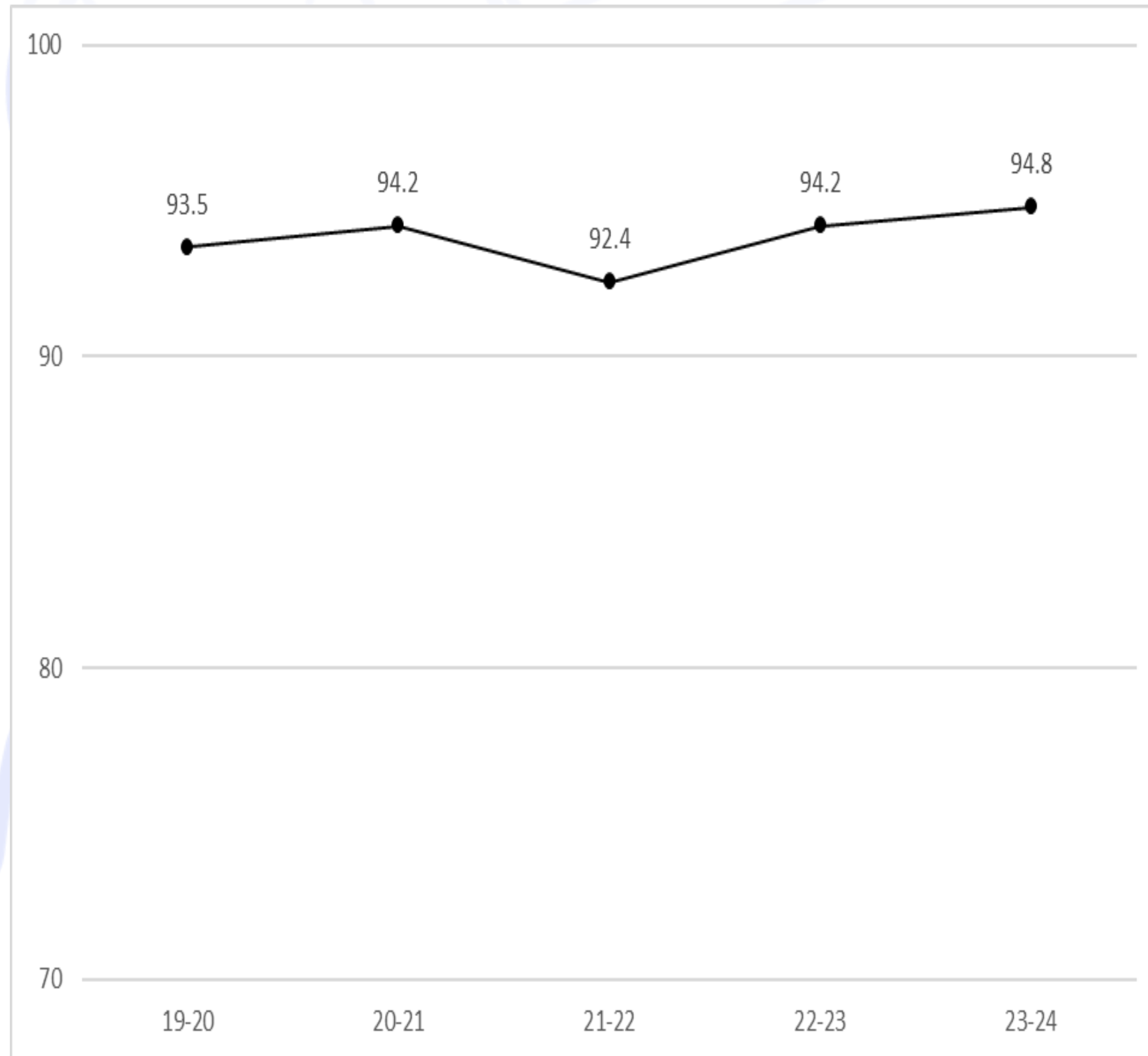
Communities In Schools®



Communities
In Schools®

Newark Board of Education

Attendance Summary Five Year Trend



**The 5 - year trend ends
wit an ADA at 94.8%.**

Newark Board of Education

Student Chronic Absenteeism SY23/24

District

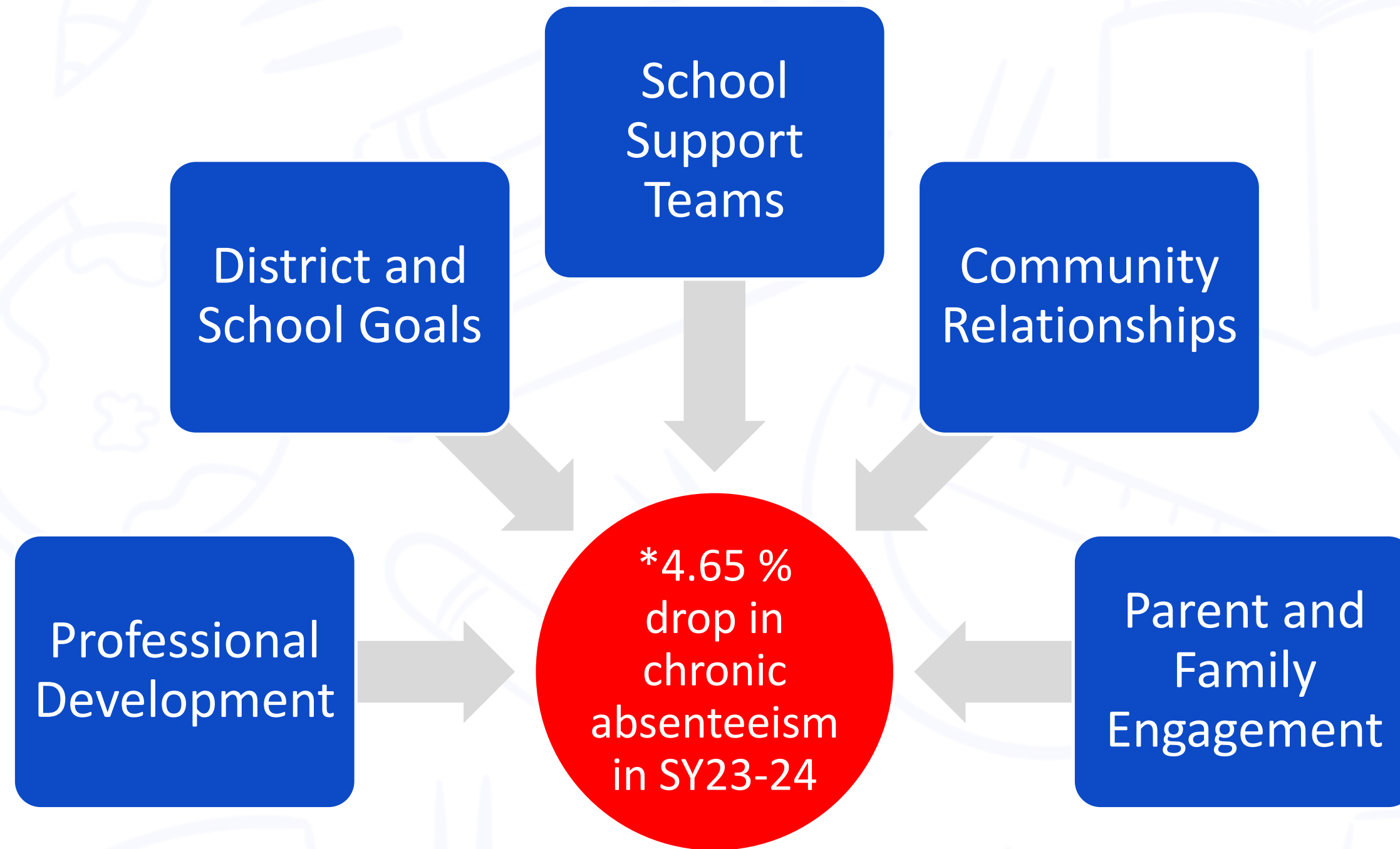
12.1%

Elementary	High Schools	Specialized Schools
10.3%	15.1%	14.5%

Strategies

- Review previous SY attendance data
- Identify students with 18+ absences
- Disaggregate data by grade levels
- Develop and administer student/parent surveys
- Establish a realistic number of students to case manage
- Create student attendance improvement plans
- Meet with parents and students-introduce SAIP
- Match student with an “Attendance Buddy”/mentor

Newark Public Schools- CIS Partnership



*in CIS schools

RampUp for Student Success

1

**Assessing School
Needs and Creating
a Strategic Plan**

Helps schools lay a foundation for developing an action plan, framework, and team mobilized around student success

2

**Using Data to Identify
and Track Non-Academic
Student Needs**

Prepares educators to monitor and promote student outcomes beyond the classroom

3

**Forming and Managing
Effective Community
Partnerships**

Imparts the groundwork for activating or deepening a school's strategic partnerships

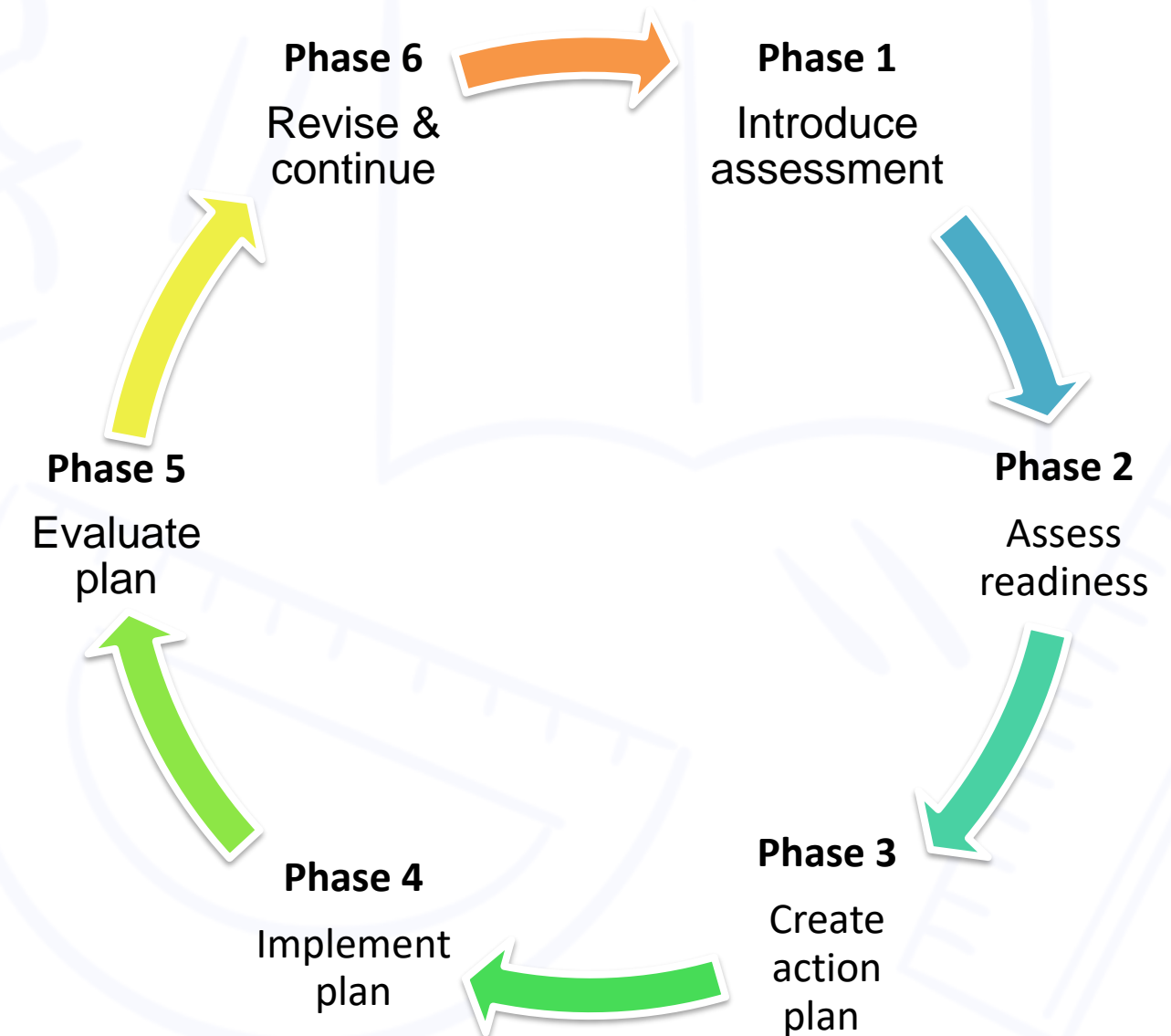
4

**Implementing Integrated
Student Supports for the
Individual**

Conveys how and when to provide students with a range of increasingly intensive support

Self-Assessment for Integrated Student Supports

- **Pre-Planning:** There is clear recognition that something must be done, and there may even be a group addressing it. However, efforts are not focused or detailed.
- **Planning:** There is a forecast to designate space, hire staff, secure funding, increase partners, etc. The process is being designed with external and internal stakeholders.
- **Implementation:** Implementation of integrated student supports has participation from all school staff and the engagement of families and communities within a context that is collaborative.



More Tools & Resources

Tulsa Public Schools

- Tulsa Public Schools [Student Attendance Success Plan](#) (for students)
- [SY24-25 Attend to Win Goals](#)

A Toolkit from AmeriCorps

This is focused on the process through which a school or district can think about leveraging national service or AmeriCorps members in their schools (including implementing tutoring, mentoring, wraparound services, and postsecondary transitions programming) is linked here.

- <https://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/Leveraging-National-Service-in-Your-Schools.pdf>
- <https://www.mentoring.org/resource/elements-of-effective-practice-for-mentoring/>
- <https://nationalmentoringresourcecenter.org/how-we-can-help/no-cost-assistance/>

Attendance Works [Resources](#)

NPSS Hub Technical Assistance Leads

- [National Student Support Accelerator Tutoring Program Selection Toolkit](#)
- [MENTOR Resource Guides](#)

Breakout Groups

If your district has been working to align resources and form community partnerships, please share some of your learnings, successes, and challenges.

Group Norms

- What's said here, stays here.
- What's learned here, leaves here.

Next Steps

- Join us September 17 for our Peer-to-Peer Learning Community Launch!
- Please share your feedback:
<https://forms.gle/o84zmY5nESEnRyd38>

Thank you!

<https://www.gradpartnership.org>

<https://www.partnershipstudentsuccess.org/>



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FOR *Student Success*