



## Resources for Nevada GEAR UP Ambassadors & SPIFs

# Addressing Absenteeism

### 1. AttendanceWorks.org

Attendance Works is a national and state initiative that promotes awareness of the important role that school attendance plays in achieving academic success starting with early school entry. Attendance Works also partners with the local community and families to intervene when school attendance is a problem for children or particular schools. The website offers resources to parents, teachers, school districts and community partners for monitoring and addressing chronic absence starting from the early ages. Visit <http://www.attendanceworks.org/tools/> for more information.

### 2. The School Turnaround AmeriCorps Program

The School Turnaround AmeriCorps program supports a dedicated team of AmeriCorps members from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) in persistently underperforming schools across the country. AmeriCorps members serve in schools by implementing school turnaround interventions as required by Department of Education's (ED) School Improvement Grant (SIG) program or as required through Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility. Visit <http://www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/task-force-expanding-national-service/school-turnaround-ameri-corps> for more information.

### 3. My Brother's Keeper Initiative

President Obama launched the My Brother's Keeper initiative to address persistent challenges faced by boys and young men of color and ensure that all young people can reach their full potential. Through this initiative, the Administration is joining with cities and towns, businesses, and foundations who are taking important steps to connect young people to mentoring, support networks, and the skills they need to find a good job or go to college and work their way into the middle class. Visit <https://www.whitehouse.gov/my-brothers-keeper#section-about-my-brothers-keeper> for more information.

### 4. National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network (NDPC/N) goal is to offer effective strategies designed to increase graduation rates in America's schools through active research and evaluation. NDPC/N has worked to improve opportunities for all young individuals to fully develop the academic, social, work, and healthy life skills needed to graduate from high school and lead productive lives. Visit <http://dropoutprevention.org/who-we-are/our-mission/> for more information.

### 5. Check & Connect

Check & Connect is a research-based intervention developed by the University of Minnesota, used with K-12 students who display warning signs of disengagement with school and who are at risk of dropping out. Students are referred to Check & Connect when they show warning signs of disengaging from school, such as poor attendance, behavioral issues, and/or low grades. Visit <http://checkandconnect.umn.edu/model/default.html> for more information.

### 6. StopBullying.gov

StopBullying.gov provides information on what is bullying, cyberbullying, and who is most at risk. The website offers tips and resources for educators and parents on how to address, respond to and prevent bullying. Visit <http://www.stopbullying.gov/what-you-can-do/index.html> for more information.

### 7. HUD Exchange

This page is a one-stop spot for youth, and those who help youth, to find housing. This page lists all HUD homeless programs and initiatives that can be used by youth and youth serving providers to help prevent and end youth homelessness, as well as resources, publications, and relevant links to other agencies and organizations. This page also provides an explanation of how HUD programs currently serve homeless youth and how HUD works together with other agencies to combat this problem. Visit <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/resources-for-homeless-youth/> for more information.

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### Did You Know?

An estimated **5 to 7.5 million** students are chronically absent from school each year.

Source: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/chronicabsenteeism/toolkit>.

### What is Chronic Absenteeism?

- Chronic absence is when a student misses 10 percent or more of school days in an academic school year for excused or unexcused reasons. This can cause low academic achievement among students; thus, eventually dropping out of school.
- Chronic absence among students can be caused by a range of concerns such as chronic health conditions, poverty, homelessness, involvement with the juvenile justice system, and much more.
- Chronic absenteeism is common among students who are low-income, students of color and students with disabilities.

Source: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/chronicabsenteeism/toolkit.pdf>

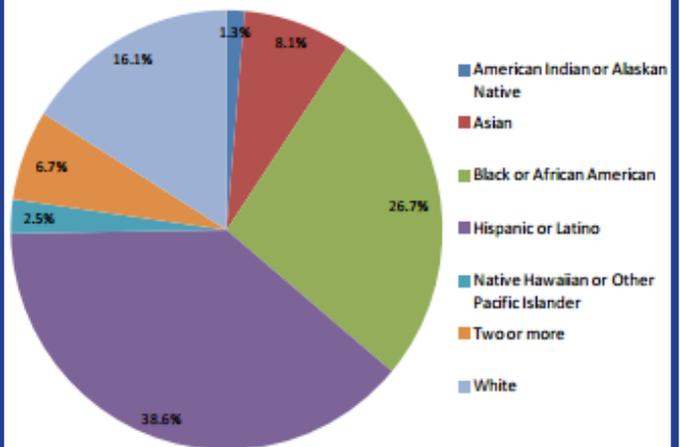
### Why Does Attendance Matter?

- Poor attendance will result in serious implications for a student's future.
- Students will miss out on fundamental skills learned in school.
- Research shows that school attendance is an important factor in student achievement.

Source: <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/attendancedata/chapter1a.asp>

### Student Demographics

2010-2011 Chronic/Severely Absent Students by Racial/Ethnic Group



Research suggests that **Hispanic/Latino, Black/African American and American Indian or Alaska Native** students have higher rates of chronic absence compared to other racial/ethnic groups.

Source: [http://explore.regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/ourwork/publications/chronic-absence-scusd/Brief3\\_ChronicAbsencePopulation](http://explore.regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/ourwork/publications/chronic-absence-scusd/Brief3_ChronicAbsencePopulation)

### What Can We Do?

#### Parents Should:

1. Ensure their children is arriving on time to school everyday.
2. Talk to their child about the importance of attendance at an early age and the negative effects of too many absences.
3. Create a safe space for their child to share the reason(s) why they are not attending school on a daily basis.
4. Contact your child's school to discuss what support services are available to help maintain regular attendance for your child.

#### Educators and School Staff Should:

1. Understand the research on chronic absenteeism and address how it affects their students.
2. Regularly communicate with staff, students, and their families the importance of daily attendance.
3. Engage in community-wide efforts to eliminate chronic absence among students within the community by addressing its main causes.

Source: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/chronicabsenteeism/toolkit.pdf>

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