

---

## Chronic Absenteeism Task Force Meeting 2 (Originally 11.07.23)

General Public to view: [Chronic Absenteeism Task Force Video- 2nd Meeting](#)

---

### Resources Needed: Student Transportation

- ✓ [Chronic Absenteeism Task Force November 8 Powerpoint](#)
- ✓ [Chronic Absenteeism Task Force Video- 2nd Meeting](#)
- ✓ Session 2 Links -included in the document

### Overview

This discussion guide is based on the Chronic Absenteeism Task Force Meeting Two from Tuesday, November 7. This guide builds on the [video](#), [Powerpoint](#), and additional resources linked within this document to help school division teams discuss their current parent engagement strategies and consider additional components that complement the hard work of the school division's attendance team.

Below are a set of questions to guide the team's discussion and planning for family engagement.

### Section 1: School Division Messaging Campaign

- PP Slides: 8-14, 20-23
- Handout 1: Search Institute: <https://blog.searchinstitute.org/six-shifts-better-family-engagement>
- Handout 2: <https://awareness.attendanceworks.org/contact/aam-updates/>  
<https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/health-handouts-for-families/>  
<http://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/student-attendance-success-plans/>

#### Grounding Discussion Questions:

- How does the team connect with families and establish the importance of attendance?
- Has the school division provided supports to help ALL families determine when a student should stay home or go to school?
- What other strategies may help all families provide effective routines for daily attendance?

**Take Action:** What are ideas or handouts (eg. Healthy Guidance) might help inform families of the importance of attendance? Are there existing school family nights that may lend themselves to activities to engage families in understanding the impact of chronic absenteeism?

### Section 2: Targeted and Intensive Supports

- PP Slides: 15-19
- Handout 1: <http://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/toolkits/bringing-attendance-home/>
- Handout 2: <https://attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/TakingActiononAttendance-1.pdf>
- Handout 3: [Home Visit Door Hanger from Colonial Beach](#)

#### Grounding Discussion Questions:

- As the school division attendance team develops a comprehensive family engagement strategy, how will the team determine criteria for tier two and tier three students?

- As the team considers families who are struggling with routines that promote daily attendance, what are strategies that the team could use to support students who are starting to demonstrate chronic absenteeism?
- How has the team considered personalized strategies such as the door hanger shared by Colonial Heights on the meeting video?
- How is the team helping families track their child's attendance and understand how attendance patterns are impacting their child's learning?
- What other strategies in the attendance toolkit may be helpful to support students with intensive needs?

**Take Action:** As the team develops a comprehensive family engagement plan, what relationship building strategies are highlights in some schools? How can the team spread these strategies throughout the school division? What are new strategies that can be piloted and spread to support strong family relationships and engagement?

### Section 3: Incentives Research and Strategies

- PP Slides: 18-25
- Handout 1: 24-30

Grounding Discussion Questions:

1. As the team discusses incentive programs, whose behavior do we want to change? (Individual Student, group of students, Family) and how can incentives target those groups?
2. What type of incentive might most motivate attendance improvements and how frequently should the incentive occur?
3. How can the incentive be implemented most effectively and easily?
4. How do you know if the incentives are working?

*Note:* Any AttendanceWorks handouts can be co-branded with permission. If you wish to alter the content of the handouts, please contact Cecelia Leong, Vice President of Programs, at [cecelia@attendanceworks.org](mailto:cecelia@attendanceworks.org). See [the Attendance Works uses policy](#) for more detail.

### Section 4: Meaningful Engagement Discussion

- PP Slides: n/a
- Handout: n/a

1. In listening to Carla Alpern share Louisa County's meaningful engagement strategy, how did Louisa change the way families approached attendance?
2. During her explanation of attendance calls, how did the team build relationships, assess family barriers and solve family needs?
3. What supports might attendance staff need to take this approach?
4. Where could the school division pilot this approach and spread a "meaningful engagement" strategy?
5. How could this approach build relationships between families and the school?

### Next Steps

We want to hear from you! What methods or tools are you trying? What changes have you seen in student attendance? Have you