



## Session Summary

Session 3 • July 13, 2021

### Reimagining Learning So That All Students Attend School!

Presenters: **Kari Sullivan Custer**, Education Consultant for Student Attendance & Engagement, Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), and **Stephen Proffitt**, Director for Special Education Programs and Instructional Design, State Education Resource Center (SERC)

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#### Overview

Research analysis from the 2020–21 school year found that student attendance and chronic absence fell for all students. The study also showed that it was significantly worse for fully remote learners, students living in poverty, those identified with a disability, and those learning English. As schools reopen and begin to accelerate learning in an equitable way for all students, it is imperative that systems are in place that: 1) mobilize attendance teams; 2) dive into the data; 3) build a plan of action; and 4) evaluate and adjust to ensure success.

#### Begin with the Data

Monitoring attendance trends at the district and school level is imperative to closing the achievement gap. Districts, schools and communities in Connecticut have access to attendance data by district, school, student groups, and grade levels on [EdSight](#).

#### Align Strategic Plans

Strong student attendance and engagement is vital to the success of any state, school, or district improvement plan. In order to maintain strong attendance throughout the school year, strategic planning and goals must include multitiered systems to [support students and families](#). State guidance including [AccelerateCT](#) and [CSDE's ARP ESSER Guidance](#) feature effective tools for addressing attendance and engagement in district ARP ESSER plans.

#### Build Systems to Support All Students

The key to developing, monitoring, and sustaining improvements in student attendance is the implementation of a system to support all students. Steps that districts/schools should take to establish a strong system include: 1) mobilizing attendance teams; 2) diving into the data; 3) leveraging the work, including [Tier 1, 2, and 3 interventions](#); and 4) [evaluating](#) to sustain.

#### Stay Connected & Learn Together as Partners

Supports and guidance for addressing attendance and engagement can be found at the state and local levels. However, the best learning is with colleagues and peers from other districts and schools. Districts and schools are encouraged to participate in CSDE's student attendance virtual learning communities such as [Talk Tuesdays](#) and the Student Attendance Community of Practice for District Attendance Leads.

## **Resources**

### **Begin with the Data**

- [Chronic Absence Patterns and Prediction During Covid-19: Insights from Connecticut - Attendance Works](#), Attendance Works and CSDE

### **Align to Strategic Plans**

- [CT's Framework for Accelerating Educational Opportunity and Access](#)
- [CSDE ESSER Guidance: Initiatives/Resources to Spark Innovation](#)

### **Mobilize Attendance Teams**

- [Reducing Chronic Absence in Connecticut's Schools: A Prevention and Intervention Guide for Schools and Districts](#), CSDE
  - [What districts can do to improve attendance](#)
  - [What schools can do to improve attendance](#)
- [Full Equal, and Equitable Partnerships with Families](#)
  - [What Does High-Impact Family Engagement Look Like in Reducing Chronic Absence?](#)
- [BRINGING ATTENDANCE HOME Engaging Parents in Preventing Chronic Absence](#), Attendance Works
- [School Team Self-Assessment Tool](#), Attendance Works

### **Dive into the data**

- [EdSight Student Participation Data, 2020-21](#)
- [EdSight Secure](#)
  - [Early Indication Tool](#)
- [Early Indication Tool for Teachers](#)
- [EdSight, Chronic Absence Trend Data, by district, school, and student groups](#)
- [An Urgent Call for Timely Analysis and Engagement](#)

### **Build a Plan of Action**

- [Attendance Playbook](#)
- [Attendance Playbook Implementation Guide](#)
- [Three Tiers of Intervention, updated with Foundational "Whole School" Supports](#), Attendance Works
- [Parent Teacher Home Visits](#)
- [National Success Mentors](#)
- [Check & Connect](#)
- [Community Schools New York City](#)

### **Stay Connected & Learn Together**

- [Talk Tuesdays](#)
- [CSDE Contacts Manager](#)