



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Talk Tuesdays

Student Attendance, Engagement, and Support Series

August 24, 2021



Please [sign-in](#) using the chat - include your name, title, district/school or agency.



Developed by the CSDE in collaboration with SERC



***Notice: This meeting is
being recorded.***

Agenda

1. Welcome

*Kari Sullivan Custer, Education Consultant, Attendance & Engagement,
CSDE*

2. What's New at CSDE and Partners

3. Attendance 101

*Kari Sullivan Custer, Education Consultant, Attendance & Engagement,
CSDE*

4. Upcoming Attendance & Engagement Meetings



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What's New at CSDE

August 23, 2021

- [2021-22 Minimum Budget Requirement \(MBR\)](#)
- [Update on Filing Expenditure Data via the Education Financial System \(EFS\)](#)
- [2021-22 Out-of-Town Magnet School Transportation Grant Application \(ED021\)](#)
- [Reporting School COVID Cases to DPH for the 2021-22 School Year](#)

August 19, 2021

- [Fall 2021 Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together – Updated Guidance for the Use of Mitigation Strategies in Connecticut's PreK-12 Schools](#)
- [Governor Lamont Nominates Charlene Russell-Tucker as Education Commissioner](#) 

August 17, 2021

- [Virtual House Call for Parents and Families](#) (August 23, 2021, 5-6 p.m.) 

August 12, 2021

- #Vax2SchoolCT Initiative [memo](#) and [toolkit](#)
- [“Why Won't You Listen To Me?!” Dr. Julia Minson's Presentation](#)

July 26, 2021

- [Fall 2021 Interim Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention](#)

July 19, 2021

- [CSDE Guidance Regarding the Future of Remote Learning in Connecticut Schools](#) 



Legislative Update

Mental Health Wellness Days – Public Act 21-46, Section 19



Beginning school year 2021-22 and going forward, local and regional boards of education must provide students enrolled in kindergarten through Grade 12 the **opportunity to be absent from school for up to two mental health wellness days during the school year. The two mental health wellness days may not be taken consecutively.** This is in accordance with [Section 19 of Public Act 21-46](#), An Act Concerning Social Equity and the Health, Safety and Education of Children.



CT Attendance Awareness Campaign

In partnership with [Attendance Works](#), CSDE has created messaging materials, in English and Spanish, for Connecticut districts and schools to use in their own attendance awareness campaigns. All materials can be downloaded and branded with a district or school's logo. The resources include banners, parent handouts, posters and coloring pages. All resources are in PDF format. Find the materials on the Connecticut [Attendance Awareness Campaign webpage](#).



Banners

- Elementary [English](#) [Spanish](#)
- Secondary [English](#) [Spanish](#)

Parent Handouts

- Elementary [English](#) [Spanish](#)
- Secondary [English](#) [Spanish](#)

Posters [English](#) [Spanish](#)

Coloring Pages [English](#) [Spanish](#)



Attend Today Connecticut

Stay on Track with Good Attendance...

©Attendance Works

PRESCHOOLERS build skills and develop good habits for showing up on time	ELEMENTARY STUDENTS read well by the end of third grade	HIGH SCHOOLERS stay on track for graduation	COLLEGE STUDENTS earn their degrees	WORKERS succeed in their jobs
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Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE> [#attendtodayCT](#) www.attendanceworks.org



#Vax2SchoolCT

A Toolkit for Connecticut School Districts
DPH + CSDE

[COVID Vaccines - A Toolkit for Connecticut Schools \(#Vax2SchoolCT\)](#)



Be Present To Get Presence!

Join us as we help local school and school district professionals make the connection between relationships, attendance, and educational equity. This webinar builds on learnings from the "My Brother's Keeper" (MBKA) "Success Mentors" Program. This successful, evidence-based mentoring program promotes attendance by creating a sense of belonging and responding to student absences quickly with a strengths-based, relationships-first response and discusses how schools might adapt this model to our current realities in 2021.

Date/Time:

- Wednesday, September 1, 2021
- 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- Zoom Meeting



Learning Objectives:

Underlying this training is MENTOR's guiding vision, which is that all youth have access to a web of support from caring adults and can form empowering relationships that:

1. Promote the pursuit of the youth's passions, skills, and interests
2. Enable youth's access to and exploration of spaces where these can be pursued
3. Help youth overcome personal and/or institutional obstacles

Session Outline:

- What are Barriers to Attendance?
- The MBK Success Mentors Initiative
- The Power of Mentoring
- What is Success Mentors?
- The Success Mentors Model
- What does a Success Mentor do?

Register free: <https://preventionworksct-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtdOqpjkoGNZpEiQssYnBTum635AIOkcM>

Attendance 101!

CSDE Chronic Absence Webpage – [Related Resources](#)

Supporting Attendance & Engagement

- [Reducing Chronic Absence in Connecticut's Schools: A Prevention and Intervention Guide for Schools and Districts Guide](#), basics (nuts & bolts), start with a team, unpack the data, understand root causes and develop a plan, e.g., district role, school role, tiered approach, and community role
 - [Addendum 14: Supporting Student Attendance and Engagement during Hybrid or Remote Learning \(COVID-19\)](#)

Tracking and Monitoring Daily Attendance

- [Guidelines for Excused and Unexcused Absences](#)
 - [Tracking Attendance on Remote Days for State Reporting & FAQs \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Public School Information System \(PSIS\) Reference Guide](#) - The PSIS Reference Guide contains detailed guidance on reporting student attendance, Appendix F, in the PSIS and for when to unregister students, Appendix L, who are not coming to school for extended periods of time.
 - [Guidelines for Reporting Student Attendance](#)
 - [PSIS Appendix L - Reporting Information about Students who are Disengaged](#)

Reviewing & Monitoring Attendance Trends

- [EdSight](#), an on-line portal for finding district and school-level data, including chronic absence.
- [Supporting Student Participation in 2020-21](#) (monthly attendance by district and school for 2020-21 school year)
- [Ed Sight Secure](#) and the Early Indication Tool

Attendance 201!

State & National [Related Resources](#)

- [Attendance Playbook: Smart Solutions for Reducing Chronic Absenteeism](#), FutureED
- [Guide to Using the Attendance Playbook: Smart Strategies for Reducing Chronic Absenteeism in the COVID Era](#), Attendance Works
- [Attendance Works](#) has developed a range of resources specific to grades served (i.e., elementary, middle, secondary) and aligned to five important strategies designed to improve attendance: recognizing good and improved attendance; engaging students and parents; monitoring attendance data and practice; providing personalized early outreach; and developing programmatic responses to barriers. A few examples include:
 - [Attendance Awareness Campaign](#)
 - Early and Often: [Early Education Toolkit](#)
 - Leading Attendance: [A Toolkit for Principals](#)
 - Teaching Attendance 2.0: [A Toolkit for Teachers](#)
 - [Year-Long Planning Calendars](#)
- [The Governor's Prevention Partnership](#), Connecticut Mentoring Resources, Training and Guidance
 - [Mentor: The National Mentoring Partnership](#)
- [Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#)
- [Get Schooled](#)
- [Flamboyant Foundation](#), Building Effective Family Engagement

Upcoming Attendance & Engagement Meetings

Next Talk Tuesday
Tuesday, **September 7**, 2021
10 to 11 a.m.

Have a **promising practice or success**
you want to share?

Concerns you want to share through peer discussion?

**BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER,
SERC WILL BE HOSTING TALK TUESDAYS ON ZOOM.
WATCH FOR ZOOM LINK!**

Send ideas for topics for discussion to
Kari.Sullivan@ct.gov.

Community of Practice
District Attendance Leads

Thursday, **September 16**, 2021
10 to 11:30 a.m.

Visit [Talk Tuesday Webpage!](#)



Archive of all presentations.



Keep in touch!



**Kari
Sullivan Custer**

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Connect with CSDE for more information
on student attendance and engagement:



[Facebook.com/ctdepartmentofeducation](https://www.facebook.com/ctdepartmentofeducation)



<http://www.ct.gov/sde>



[@EducateCT](https://twitter.com/EducateCT)

