COMMUNITY SCHOOLS & COLLABORATION

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Community organizations can play a powerful role in improving student attendance by addressing both the direct and underlying causes of absenteeism. Schools can leverage partnerships with community organizations that provide support to help address some specific attendance barriers listed below:

PROVIDING BASIC NEEDS

FOOD PROGRAMS

Offering free or subsidized meals, snacks, or weekend food packs can reduce absenteeism due to hunger. Many schools rely on churches or other organizations to keep their snack cupboards full, so teachers do not have to buy snacks for their students.

CLOTHING & SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVES

Supplying weather-appropriate clothing (coats, shoes, boots, etc.) removes barriers to attendance. Organizations can also donate school supplies, backpacks, etc. for any student who may need them.

HOUSING SUPPORT

Partnering with shelters or housing organizations can assist families in crisis, including rental, heating, or furniture needs.

MENTORING & TUTORING

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

Trusted adult mentors can help students feel more connected and motivated to attend school. Many businesses allow staff to volunteer in schools as buddy readers, mentors or recess support.

AFTERSCHOOL TUTORING

Academic support builds student confidence, reducing avoidance due to falling behind. Providing high dosage tutoring for students who are behind and reluctant to school can have a huge impact.

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS & COLLABORATION

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

CAREGIVER WORKSHOPS

Educating families about the importance of attendance and how to support their children.

HOME VISITS

Enlisting support from mental health organizations to conduct outreach to chronically absent students in a supportive way.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIRS & EVENTS

Inviting organizations that provide assistance to families at school events and connect families to the resources.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Offering after-school clubs, arts, sports, or career-exploration programs makes the school more engaging and encourages regular attendance.

TRANSPORTATION HELP

Providing or coordinating transport options for students facing logistical barriers to getting to school. Some businesses can donate taxi vouchers as a way to help.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Running campaigns that highlight the value of consistent attendance and celebrate improvements or successes. Businesses can donate promotional materials or incentives to hand out as rewards for students achieving attendance goals.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Offering counseling, social-emotional learning, or referrals to mental health services helps students struggling with anxiety, depression, or trauma that lead to school avoidance.