Attendance and Health

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Maine AAP, Maine Assoc of School Nurses, Maine DOE
Susan Lieberman, Count ME In

29,470 Maine students chronically absent

Multiple Measures of Attendance

Who is missing school without permission?
Typically refers to unexcused absences. Each state has the authority to define truancy and when it triggers legal intervention.

Who is missing so much school they are academically at risk?
Missing 10% for any reason — excused, unexcused, etc. Chronic absence is a required reporting metric and a measure for school improvement in ESSA.

Chronic Absenteeism: Why Does It Matter

NWEA Math Achievement Scores 2015-2017
Count ME In Study

Average Spring Math Score

Grade 3
Grade 4
Grade 5

Regular Attendees
Chronically Absent
National Norm

199.9 203.4
209.6 213.5
217.9 221.4

195.5 203.7
212.7
Count ME In

- Established 2013
- Community of Educators and Youth Serving Organizations
- Data-driven and data-informed
- Parent and Youth Guided
- Focus on Whole-School and Whole Community Approach

Link Student Health and Absenteeism

- Leading Health Conditions that Impact Attendance
- Successful Learners are Healthier Adults
- Increased Connection with School, Students More Likely to Attend and Less Likely to Engage in Risky Behaviors
- Address Root Causes

Count ME In Steps, Challenges and Supports

- Universal Messaging and Positive Engagement
- Implement Early Warning and Response System
- Establish Review Structure
- Implement Data-Driven Interventions
- Incorporate Partners and Continuous Quality Improvement Review

Changes in Chronic Absenteeism

- 25% Rate of Decrease in Chronic Absenteeism
- Before CMI: 7.7% Chronically Absent
- After CMI: 5.6% Chronically Absent
School Nurses and Medical Providers are Key

- Outreach to Families
- Share Guidance When a Student Should Stay Home
- Know Your Community’s Chronic Absentee Rate And the Students who are Chronically Absent
- Participate on School Teams
- Facilitate Partnerships between Medical Providers and School Nurses

Your Ideas

1. Approximately, how many times during the year do you contact medical providers?
2. What type of information is helpful to support students’ health at school?
3. What is the best way to receive the information?

THANK YOU!

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Additional Resources
Count ME In: www.countmeinmaine.org
Attendance Works: www.attendanceworks.org

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