

ATTACHMENT D

SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (SEIP)

CHANGE PACKAGE

SEIP Collaborative Pilot: Change Concepts
1. Create learning and high expectation culture in the classroom and other school settings
2. Promote and reward pro-social peer to peer relationships, that enhances school safety
3. Create a Caring School Community by implementing the characteristics of a welcoming school climate (National School Climate Standards)
4. Targeted processes to identify and track at risk students and their families and focus efforts on “At Risk” students having positive transitions (Early Warning System)
5. Timely personalized, positive intervention with absent/returning students
6. Increase Use of Community Resources/Services (like mental and physical health) by improving linkage and coordination
7. Promote and foster parenting skills to develop home environments that support children as students
8. Achieve high levels of parental and community involvement which includes parents in School Decisions and Develops Parent Leaders and Representatives
9. Establish regular and meaningful two-way communication between home and school
10. Address academic achievement gap

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Testable Ideas

1. Create learning and high expectation culture in the classroom and other school settings	Tiers
Set up mechanisms where administration and teachers listen to what students (not just the student leaders) have to say, for example - for safety, truancy, how to engage families	1
Identify and create inventory of students' strengths/skills/knowledge bases so teachers/schools can use this in the classroom to target interventions and learning methods to students' strengths	2, 3
School staff welcome students back after absences, refrain from making negative/unwelcoming comments e.g. "why are you here?" 'why did you come back"	1, 2, 3
School-wide competition (classroom to classroom within grade level) for attendance/no tardies: provide prizes/incentives (e.g., social rewards) to create peer pressure	1
Assist students to develop a life/career plan (e.g. Zero Drop-Out Program which had kids think about what they want in the future)	2, 3
Post in public places attendance rates as well as attendance policies	1
Regular recognition of positive behavior (pro-social), including attendance	1, 2, 3
Create social norms or expectations that encourage students to be at school (e.g. "stay in school be cool")	1
Have a welcome to middle school parent orientation in the spring before student starts middle school that establishes expectations for student behavior and performance	1
Provide teaching (with lesson plans) on appropriate social behavior in various school settings (e.g. cafeteria, library, etc.)	1
Apply group/team-based classroom management to reward appropriate classroom behavior	1, 2
Provide alternative programs/methods of learning for students who don't thrive in traditional school settings	2, 3
Provide tutoring, including peer-assisted, during or outside of class with positive agent to de-stigmatize academic support	2, 3

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Link with high school/local colleges/grad students to mentor/tutor kids to improve their academic skills (fulfills service learning of college students)	2, 3
All teachers have and promote office hours for individualized tutoring and academic support	2, 3
Incentivize completion of late assignment to assure associated lesson is learned – on a standardized basis throughout the school	2, 3

2. Promote and reward pro-social peer to peer relationships, that enhances school safety	Tiers
Have students from higher-grade levels mentor underclass students.	2, 3
Provide free breakfast at school to promote Attendance Support.	1
Train students and teachers in peace-making techniques	1
Conduct articulation activities with elementary and high school feeders: such as, when 5th graders tour, assign a 7th grader to follow-up with them over Summer & Fall	1
Organize focus groups for student input addressing topics like; i.e. school safety, academic achievement.	1
Promote/organize student study groups where youth work together to understand material and learning activities	2, 3
Establish a peer mentorship program that focuses on social and academic achievement.	1, 2, 3
Create a Student Buddy system (teams of 4-5 students) to assist and follow-up on one another and receive rewards for doing so.	1, 2, 3
Use an on-site behavior support class to create opportunities for students to demonstrate, practice and internalize appropriate school conduct	1, 2, 3

3. Create a caring school community by implementing the characteristics of a welcoming school climate	Tiers
All school personnel perform welcoming and encouragement outreach to students and parents.	1, 2, 3

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School sponsored events to promote Community-based Organization Services	1, 2, 3
Create a Homeroom period, (approx. 20-30 min) for every day with a particular activity or theme that leads to sharing of feelings (maybe split by gender?)	1
Create a student buddy support system for tracking attendance and academic achievement	1, 2, 3
Use an on-site behavior support class to create opportunities for students to demonstrate, practice and internalize appropriate school conduct	2, 3

4. Targeted processes to identify and track at risk students and their families and focus efforts on “at risk” students having positive transitions	Tiers
John Hopkins Early Warning System – Attendance, Behavior, Course Failure: promoting attendance through an academic intervention (Identify and Track)	1,2,3
Principal or other caring staff member knows names of parents of chronically truant or absent students	2,3
When any adult meets with parent and/or student, review attendance – praise or explain laws and alternatives	2,3
Truancy coordinator to send an email/communication to all teachers that “Johnny” is returning and have them provide positive acknowledgement and welcome back	2,3
Create an accurate and transparent data tracking system for target populations	2,3
Get phone numbers from parents and auto text for absences	2,3
Phone calls or conference with parents (actual personal contact) at early point (3 or more absences)	2,3
Reference and describe alternative programs (e.g. independent study, Saturday school) in student handbook	2,3
Truant meets every morning with caring adult Same as breakfast club idea	2,3

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Provide safe ways to/from school; Create walking carpools/school buses in neighborhoods (link parents on a block who are available to walk to/from school with other kids on the block)	2,3
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5. Timely personalized, positive intervention with absent/returning students	Tiers
One person at school site accountable for truancy – contact for teachers, parents; attends SARB/medication, knows resource	3
Adult contacts and cares when a student does not show up for school: let student know he/she was missed at school, inquire how he/she is and ask when he/she will return to school	1, 2, 3
Re-entry/remediation strategies for students with excessive absence prior to transition into mainstream school setting with re-entry student completing a career and education plan for their future.	2, 3

6. Increase use of community resources/services (like mental and physical health) by improving linkage and coordination	Tiers
Provide CBOs to connect resources immediately (enroll) to families	2, 3
Resource mapping including everything in community. Get kids involved!	1
Provide private and “protected” access to counseling on health and mental health issues	1, 2, 3
Direct connection/referral to mental health provider for mental health issues	1, 2, 3
Educate students and staff about mental health issues e.g. anxiety, depression, grief and where to go for help for yourself or a friend	1, 2, 3

7. Promote and foster parenting skills to develop home environments that support children as	Tiers
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students	
Share information with parents at parent/teacher conference, Back-to-School Night, orientation, Sports Night: student’s attendance record; truancy law, consequences, resources, rights and responsibilities; Use DVD and video presentation to give parents information	1, 2, 3
Parents who work with other parents; challenge parent to set long [term] plan for themselves and their kids (e.g. Parent Corp – Gear Up)	1, 2, 3
Daily homework sign-in sheet for students to give to parents	1, 2, 3
Identify at-risk families: confidential questionnaire for parents	2, 3
Create/add family liaison to identify at-risk families	2, 3

8. Achieve high levels of parental and community involvement which includes parents in school decisions and develops parent leaders and representatives	Tiers
Organize meetings with parents in the community	1
Organize Potluck with regular “Back to School Night” or “Open House” for whole family	1
Welcome parent and grandparent into the school during the day (scheduled “office hours”)	1
Offer cultural based parent groups	1
Create alternative to PTA for marginalized parents/communities	1

9. Establish regular and meaningful two-way communication between home and school	Tiers
Share reports of absences in meetings with parents to find out causes, make referrals to services and set improvement targets (all students)	1, 2, 3
Create a database for parents to get access to child’s up-to-date attendance	1
Use a communication protocol to provide regular attendance status to	1, 2, 3

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parents (letter or email; phone, phone at work; phone in evening, emergency contacts; home visit)	
Utilize free media approach to student and parent education: YouTube, Twitter, MySpace, text messages	1, 2, 3