



Reducing Chronic Early Absence Tips for Policy Makers

- ❖ Launch a **public awareness campaign** to communicate the importance of going to school every day.
- ❖ Require that individual school districts and schools **accurately record and monitor** daily attendance, excused and unexcused absences, and chronic absence; and that the state, districts, and schools make data on chronic absence publicly available.
- ❖ Make chronic absence rates and strategies for improving them part of the statewide **accountability/school rating system**.
- ❖ Use the prevalence of chronic absence to **identify schools and districts in need of targeted community resources**, such as Pre-K education; afterschool programs; and connections to health care, social services, food and nutrition, and affordable housing.
- ❖ Require that **school improvement plans** include strategies for reducing chronic absence.
- ❖ Identify and highlight local **success stories**.
- ❖ **Commit to learning what works** by expanding effective programs and halting efforts that are not working.
- ❖ Make sure children and families have access to **health insurance and medical care**. Adequate health care can reduce school absences due to illnesses.
- ❖ **Allocate financial resources** to address barriers to attendance, such as lack of adequate bus transportation, poorly kept sidewalks, and lack of before and afterschool programming.

