

Accountability and Data Project School Counseling Programs - Access, Attainment, Achievement



District Name
Washington District
School Name
Lava Ridge Intermediate
School Year
2023-24

Area of Focus
Access

This project provides targeted supports to students...
who are at risk of being chronically absent from school and being subject to the various risk factors associated with it.

Baseline Data
<p>We have been tracking Chronic Absenteeism attendance data since 2019. In the 2021-2022 school year, we implemented a new program called Here and Now. This is an incentive program that is supported by our conesite, community businesses and faculty. The data chart on page 2 shows the percentages in each attendance category through the years. The first year we implemented as a school alone, the 2nd year we brought the High School on board and worked with the Middle School to share ideas and encourage them to help us make this a cone-site wide program. Through that experience, we found that some tweaks were needed to accommodate both Intermediate/Middle and High School needs, but we've found what works at each level and are continuing to encourage students to make good choices regarding school attendance.</p>

Goal Statement				
Direction	Group	Data Elements	Expected	Date of Outcome
<i>Example: Increase</i>	<i>9th grade male emergent bilingual students</i>	<i>credit completion rates by</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>by the end of the 4th term</i>
We will decrease	all students	Chronic Absenteeism rates by	5%	by the end of the school year.
Goal Explanation (Optional)				

How does this project support the School Improvement Plan?				
<p>Good school attendance is a goal in our School Improvement Plan. Students who attend school will have better outcomes and better access to educational advantages than those who do not.</p>				
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="border: none;">This project is:</td> <td style="border: none; text-align: center;">Ongoing</td> <td style="border: none;">*Number of previous years on project:</td> <td style="border: none; text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> </table>	This project is:	Ongoing	*Number of previous years on project:	3
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How will achieving this goal lead to significant and meaningful outcomes for students?
<p>Students need to be at school in order to learn academic, social, and emotional skills for future success. Students who are not at school regularly have higher rates of negative outcomes compared to those who do, namely lower reading and achievement scores, higher dropout rates, higher involvement with court system, increased social struggles, school avoidance & anxiety (www.attendanceworks.com, 2017).</p>

Systemic Interventions	
Individual Level	Students can earn incentives through good attendance by earning the Here & Now Card. Anyone who has been at school 95% of the time will earn this card and be eligible for incentives and celebrations.
Student Group Level	Students who do not meet the 95% goal will work with our attendance coach and/or counselors to set attendance goals and work to earn the Here and Now rewards. These students may also take our Here and Now Attendance Success course.
Classroom Level	All students are given Attendance Success Coursework at beginning of year. Classroom teachers offer incentives such as: school store points, extra credit, homework passes, classroom rewards for students who have earned the card.
Grade Level	Occasionally, grade level competitions will be held to encourage participation and motivate students in a friendly, competitive way.
School Level	Schoolwide celebrations are held for those who have the card, have set goals to earn the card, have Practically Perfect attendance, or other school attendance goals. These celebrations happen quarterly and at the end of the semester and school year.
District Level	Cone-site wide participation with the Intermediate, Middle and High Schools helps to get the word out into the community that attendance is important and that our schools have the same expectation throughout their secondary school experience.
Family Level	We regularly send home materials to educate parents about the importance of good school attendance through our monthly newsletters, counselor website, emails, and other communications. We send a tracker so that absences can be more easily monitored and accounted for.
Community Level	We have strong support from our local business community who believe that good school attendance fosters good & necessary workplace skills. They have offered rewards and discounts to support school attendance goals. Sponsors include Harmons, Arcadia, Handel's Ice Cream, Dutchman's, and Lightfoots. We will recruit throughout the year and summer.

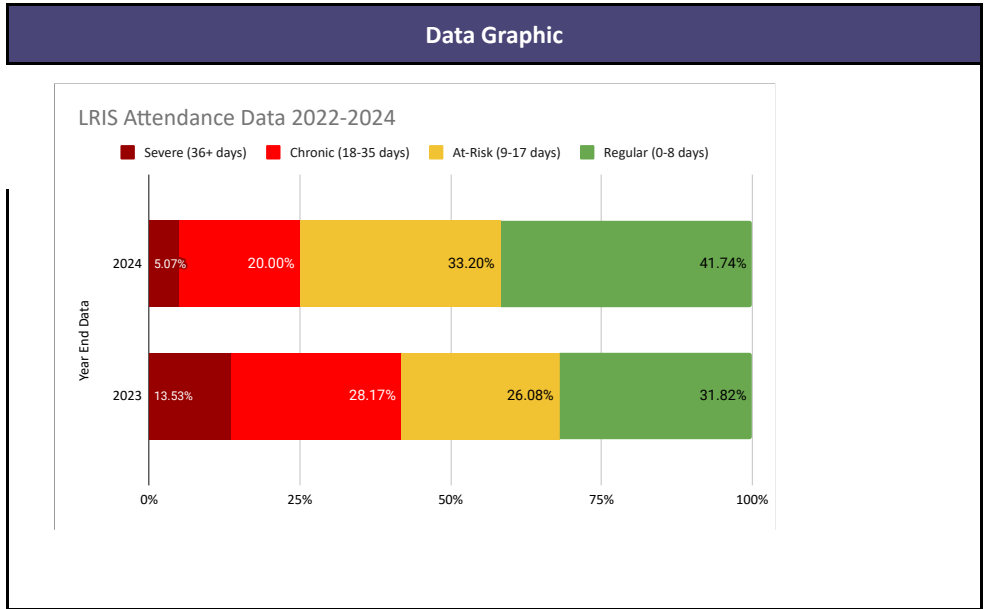
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Evidence of Impact: When did you share the story?	
Administration	05/2024
Faculty and Staff	05/2024
School Community Council	05/2024
School Board	05/2024

Progress Monitoring: How is it going?		
Fall	Winter	Spring
Cards were delivered to those who earned them in Spring 2023. SCMS helped deliver cards to 7th grade graduates. We checked in with sponsors to confirm continued participation. School-wide lessons on Attendance at beginning of the year.	Celebrations for Here and Now card earners, Practically Perfect SHAC party, and early out lunches each Monday. Attendance coach working with Tier 2 students. Regular attendance interventions for Tier 3 students with AP Bozarth. Ongoing attendance data tracking.	End-of-year Practically Perfect party at Arcadia Resort. Met with cone-site admin to confirm future roles and participation. SCMS fully onboard. Ongoing data tracking.

Results/Outcome Statement
Did you meet your goal?
Chronic absentee rates dropped from 41.7% to 25.07% and Severe Chronic rates dropped from 13.53% to 5.07% which far surpassed our goal. Regular attendance rates also rose from 31.82% to 41.74%.

Reflection: Project Outcome Analysis
This is the first year in over 7 years of tracking attendance data that we have seen a positive outcome and a reduction in chronic absenteeism rates. Our Tier 1 attendance lessons may have been one reason for the change. We saw very positive results when we used the Attendance course in small groups (see last year's data project) and decided to implement school wide. We have also been consistent in honoring the value of the cards and continuing to garner support of the program.



Reflection: Learning and Next Steps
We are very glad to have the middle school on board and are looking forward to building some continuity as our students continue to utilize the Here & Now program at all levels. We want to build our list of sponsors so that we might have different sponsors from one semester to the other. We also want to increase consistent in-school rewards throughout the year. This will help us reach students who may not have the means to visit the community sponsors around town. We will continue to focus on those near our school to that end as well.