

# Supporting Strong Attendance

## Playbook Intervention Set

This resource includes a set of attendance interventions, schoolwide practices, and relationship-building strategies—all focused on combating chronic absenteeism and building belonging in your school community.

### Intervention Set Overview

This resource includes a set of evidence- and research-based strategies from Panorama's [Playbook](#), each with a set of detailed instructions for implementation.

### Research Context

The **Supporting Strong Attendance** intervention set is modeled after the [Attendance Works framework for addressing chronic absence](#), an evidence-based approach that starts with foundational schoolwide supports that are followed by prevention-oriented strategies and interventions across all three tiers focused on incentives, accountability, and relationships.

#### What's Included?

- 15 strategies focused on supporting strong attendance, featuring several tools from [Attendance Works](#).
- Detailed implementation guide with instructions for using each strategy.
- Customizable communication templates that educators can use to personalize outreach to students and their families.

#### Sample Strategies

Check and Connect | Nudge Letters | Relationship Mapping | Motivational Interviewing | Guardian Visits | Success Mentor | Student-Led Attendance Team | Activity Pass | Perfect Pals

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<b>Relationship Mapping</b> ✎	Foundational (Schoolwide) Strategy
<b>Attendance Activities Planning Tool</b>	Foundational (Schoolwide) Strategy
<b>Guardian Visits</b>	Foundational (Schoolwide) Strategy
<b>Perfect Pals</b>	Incentive/Reward-Based Strategy
<b>Activity Pass</b>	Incentive/Reward-Based Strategy
<b>Attendance Board</b>	Incentive/Reward-Based Strategy
<b>Motivational Interviewing</b>	Accountability Strategy
<b>Student Attendance-Taker</b>	Accountability Strategy
<b>Student-Led Attendance Team</b>	Accountability Strategy
<b>Check and Connect</b>	Relationship-Building Intervention
<b>Success Mentor</b>	Relationship-Building Intervention
<b>Arrival Check-In</b>	Relationship-Building Intervention
<b>Nudge Letters</b>	Notification-Based Strategy
<b>Student Attendance Success Plan</b>	Notification-Based Strategy
<b>Family Health Connect</b>	Notification-Based Strategy

# Foundational (Schoolwide) Attendance x Belonging Strategies

## Relationship Mapping

A positive and stable relationship with a caring, trusted adult is one of the most important aspects of a child's life. **Relationship Mapping** is a schoolwide intervention that is designed to ensure each student in the building has a strong, positive connection to at least one teacher or staff member—and that relationships between teachers, staff, and students are deep enough that someone will know when any student is in need of additional support.

Click [here](#) to explore this strategy on Playbook. Learn more about relationship mapping with Panorama [here](#).

## Attendance Activities Planning Tool

This strategy from Attendance Works provides district and school teams with a tool for planning activities and events that will keep a focus on improving attendance throughout the year.

Click [here](#) to explore this strategy on Playbook.

## Guardian Visits

Guardian visits are a way to establish relationships between the school and students at risk for chronic absenteeism. The goal is to promote regular school attendance by establishing a positive relationship between school and home.

Click [here](#) to explore this strategy on Playbook.

# Incentive/Reward-Based Attendance x Belonging Strategies

## Perfect Pals (Tier 1/2)

Perfect Pals is an attendance intervention program that utilizes incentives to improve student engagement. This attendance intervention leverages the power of incentives and social recognition to motivate students to attend school regularly. One [study](#) found that the Perfect Pals incentive intervention improved attendance when implemented by school counselors.

Click [here](#) to explore this strategy on Playbook.

## Activity Pass (Tier 2)

As an incentive for good attendance, students are provided with “activity passes” that give them exclusive access to special activities. These activities can be within the classroom or larger-scale, school-wide activities that motivate students to attend school regularly.

Click [here](#) to explore this strategy on Playbook.

## Attendance Board (Tier 1)

A classroom attendance board conveys the importance of regular school attendance and gives students a sense of personal responsibility within the classroom. The goal is to improve attendance by having students track their own attendance. The attendance board serves as a visible reminder of the importance of regular school attendance.

Click [here](#) to explore this strategy on Playbook.

# Accountability

## Attendance x Belonging Strategies

### Motivational Interviewing (Tier 2/3)

This intervention leverages evidence-based motivational interviewing techniques to engage students in conversations that inspire them to improve their attendance. The goal of this strategy is to empower students to identify (and brainstorm ways to overcome) their own barriers to attendance while fostering a sense of accountability and ownership.

Click [here](#) to explore this strategy on Playbook.

### Student Attendance-Taker (Tier 2)

Involving students in the responsibility of logging daily attendance not only indicates the importance of regular attendance but also engages students in the school community by giving them responsibilities. Students who feel a sense of belonging are more likely to attend regularly than those who feel disengaged.

Click [here](#) to explore this strategy on Playbook.

### Student-Led Attendance Team (Tier 1)

This intervention engages students in the process of monitoring and improving attendance by forming student-led attendance teams that work collaboratively with school staff. Involving students in the process not only empowers them but also provides a unique peer perspective that can be highly effective in improving attendance.

Click [here](#) to explore this strategy on Playbook.

# Relationship-Building Attendance x Belonging Strategies

## Check and Connect (Tier 2/3)

Check and Connect is an evidence-based intervention focused on building a trusting, supportive relationship with a mentor to help support students who show signs of disengagement with school (such as poor attendance). This long-term strategy pairs mentors with students for at least two years. These mentors function as liaisons between the school, the student, and their family to build a constructive relationship and ensure authentic, two-way communication.

Click [here](#) to explore this strategy on Playbook.

## Success Mentor (Tier 2)

This intervention utilizes staff Success Mentors to provide targeted support for students who are struggling with attendance, aiming to improve their attendance rates and overall school engagement. While most districts opt to train staff members to serve as Success Mentors, many will identify older students to serve as peer mentors.

Click [here](#) to explore this strategy on Playbook.

## Arrival Check-In (Tier 1)

This simple practice includes a daily morning check-in with a designated staff member (or group of educators) greeting all students as they arrive at school to make them feel welcomed and valued.

Click [here](#) to explore this strategy on Playbook.

# Notification-Based Attendance x Belonging Strategies

## Nudge Letters (Tier 2/3)

This evidence-based intervention is focused on communicating about a student's absenteeism with parents or guardians. Information about the child's attendance is provided to family members through brief postcards, letters, text messages, phone calls, or email. Nudging is an inexpensive and effective means of reducing chronic absenteeism.

Click [here](#) to explore this strategy on Playbook.

## Student Attendance Success Plan (Tier 2)

This strategy helps family members track their child's attendance and work with teachers to set goals related to attendance. The customizable worksheet (available in five languages) is designed to directly assist family members in creating contingency plans with (and for) their children to ensure regular attendance.

Click [here](#) to explore this strategy on Playbook.

MY ATTENDANCE SUCCESS PLAN

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES TO REACH MY ATTENDANCE GOALS

- I will make attending school and every class on time every day a priority.
- I will keep track of my attendance and absences and can use the attached calendar.
- I will maintain a bedtime routine and set my alarm for \_\_\_\_\_ a.m.
- I will find a relative, friend or neighbor who can take me to school if I miss my bus.
- When I am struggling with a challenge that is keeping me from school, I will confide in an adult at school and seek help. I can list adults and friends on the Help Bank (attached).
- I will try to set up medical and dental appointments for weekdays after school.
- I will attend school every day unless I'm sick with a contagious illness, including Covid-19.
- If I cannot avoid missing school, I will contact my teachers to ask for materials and find out what I missed.

To improve my attendance, I commit to the following:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

## Family Health Connect (Tier 1)

This intervention aims to reduce health-related absences by providing families with informative handouts and resources that address common health issues affecting school attendance.

Click [here](#) to explore this strategy on Playbook.