



**Back In The Classroom:
Addressing the Chronic Absenteeism Challenge
Education, Health and Community Solutions**

**Break Out Session:
Strategies for Success Roundtable Discussions**

Summary:

Participate in a small group discussion led by an expert who is planning or implementing successful strategies to address chronic absenteeism and student success in their organization or community.

Each group will hear about these successful strategies from the discussion leaders, ask questions and have a conversation about how these strategies could be applied in their own work or community

Each table will have a different discussion leader, and each participant will have the opportunity to join the conversation at two different tables.

See the next two pages for a list of table discussion leaders



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Morning:

Table One:

Chronic Absenteeism- Focused Schools and Aligned Partners
Florence Protopapas, David Douglas School District, All Hands Raised Community Supporting Youth Collaborative District Representative
Students with sporadic school attendance are far more likely to disconnect from school and face uncertain career prospects. Yet more than 20% of local students are “chronically absent,” falling below the critical tipping point of 90% attendance. Missing school often signals unstable health, housing, and family and social supports, realities that our schools will never overcome alone. We will explore breakthrough local strategies and partnerships to keep all students engaged, supported and present in school.

Table Two:

Multnomah Youth Commission with Andrea Marquez, Youth Development Coordinator, City of Portland

The Multnomah Youth Commission is the official policy body for both Multnomah County and the City of Portland, composed of individuals ages 13-21 that strive to provide a voice for youth in the County and City’s work.

Table Three

Compulsory Attendance Law with Marci Ingram, Dropout Prevention Specialist, Homeless Liaison Advocate, McMinnville School District

How enforcing compulsory attendance law is proven effective with the students/families in McMinnville School District. Brief discussion of compulsory attendance law, attendance court, and the diversion program that is available to parents/students.

Table Four:

Clackamas County Attendance Court with Bill Stewart, Clackamas County District Attorney’s Office

Table Five:

Attendance Audits 101
Scott Perry Superintendent of the Southern Oregon Education Service District

Table Six:

New Avenues for Youth
Our mission is to work in partnership with our community to prevent youth homelessness and provide homeless and at-risk young people the resources and skills needed to lead healthy, productive lives.



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Afternoon:

Table One:

Improving School Climate Through Recess Play with Jonathan Blasher, Playworks

Addressing Chronic Absenteeism through School Climate and The Power of Play - Play is the most universally accessible recreational skill for children yet very often times of play can become times of conflict and negativity. It is essential for adults to establish a safe environment where children can take full advantage of the social, emotional and cognitive benefits provided by play.

Table Two:

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Table Three:

Using Developmental Relationships to Help Students Connect to School
Sarah Tollefson of Oregon Mentors

Together we'll discuss what developmental relationships are, why they are important, and how they can help students feel more connected and successful in school.

Table Four:

Jim Hansen, Lincoln High School
James Loveland, Portland Public Schools
Ryan McCants, Lincoln High School

Participants will learn how functional behavioral analysis/assessment can be used to better define a student attendance problem, examine factors that influence attendance, and learn the basics about how to apply FBA to attendance/behavioral support plans. Participants will also learn how to integrate attendance initiatives effectively into other school-wide student support systems so that attendance officers and others do not work in isolation. Procedures for anchoring attendance initiatives within Multi-Tiered Systems of Support and Student Information Teams will be highlighted.

Table Five:

Kenan Ginsberg, David Douglas School District
Working with Chronically Absent Youth and Their Families



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Table Six:

Restorative Justice with Gabriele Ross, Restorative Justice Trainer/Coach, Resolutions Northwest Unacceptably high push-out rates that disproportionately affect students of color, and changes in state law mandate us to rethink how we do discipline in schools. Restorative Justice is a valuable alternative to exclusionary practices that often lead students to not attending school anymore at all. Restorative Justice is an approach that seeks to restore community and to repair harm while holding all involved accountable.