

# Chronic WHAT?

## Leveraging Attendance for Better Outcomes

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**Part 2 of 3**

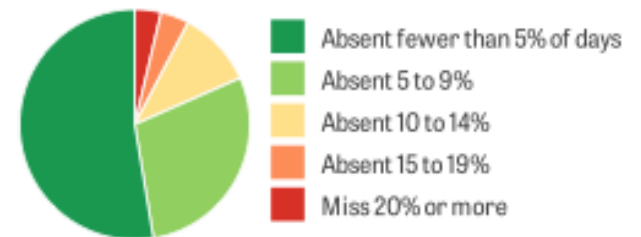
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PUBLIC HEALTH

# Chronic Absenteeism Is a Warning Signal



## RAMPANT ABSENTEEISM

One in five Oregon students misses 10 percent or more of the school year.

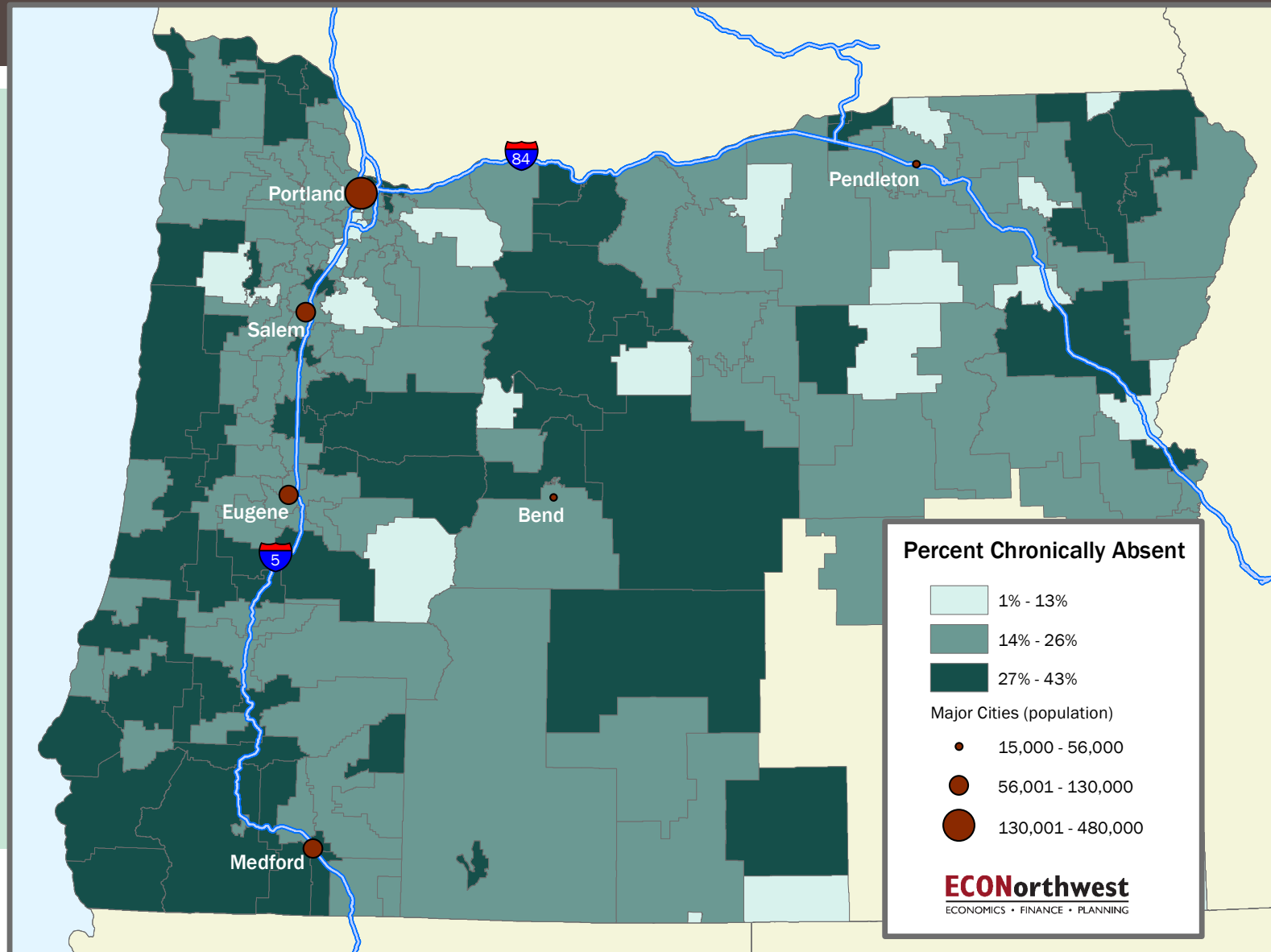


MARK FRIESEN/THE OREGONIAN

Source: Debivort  
on wikimedia

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# All Oregon Children Potentially At Risk, Rural, Low Income, and Children of Color the Most Affected



# Unpacking Attendance Terms

## Average Daily Attendance

- The % of enrolled students who attend school each day. It is used in some states for allocating funding.

## Truancy

- Typically refers only to unexcused absences and is defined by each state under No Child Left Behind. It signals the potential need for legal intervention under state compulsory education laws.

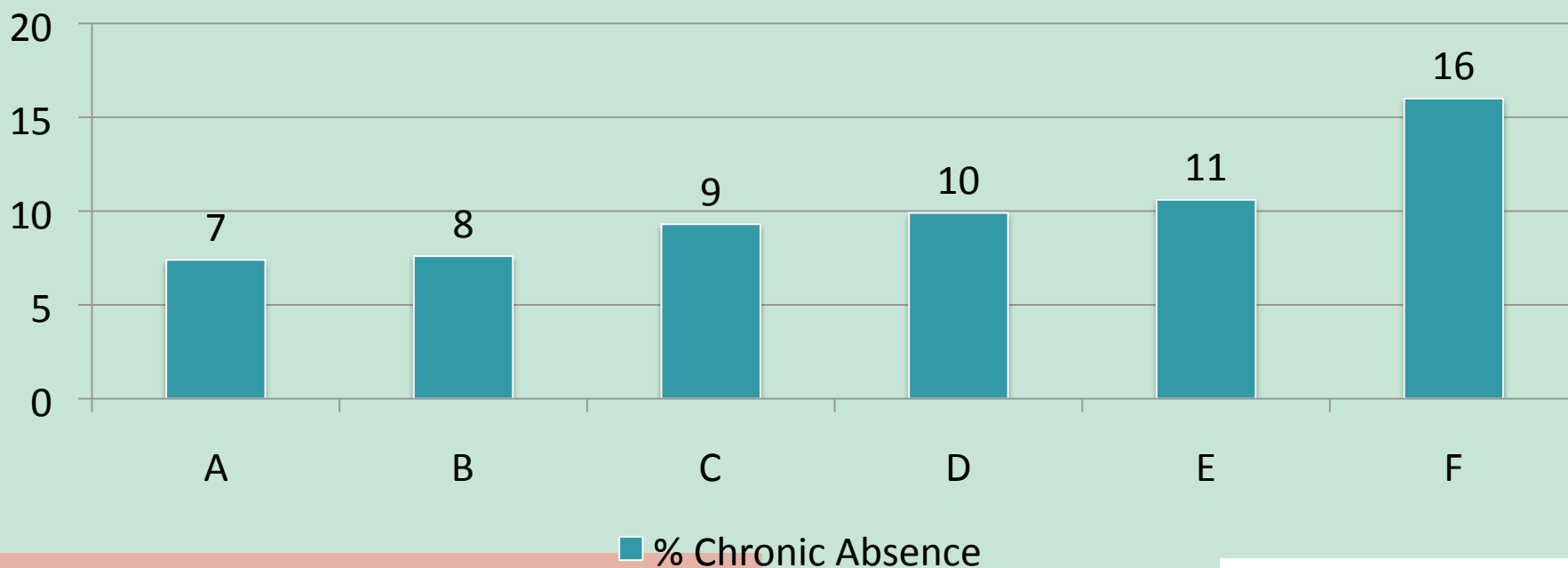
## Chronic Absence

- Missing 10% or more of school for any reason – excused, unexcused, etc. It is an indication that a student is academically at risk due to missing too much school starting in Kindergarten.

# High Levels of ADA Can Mask Chronic Absence

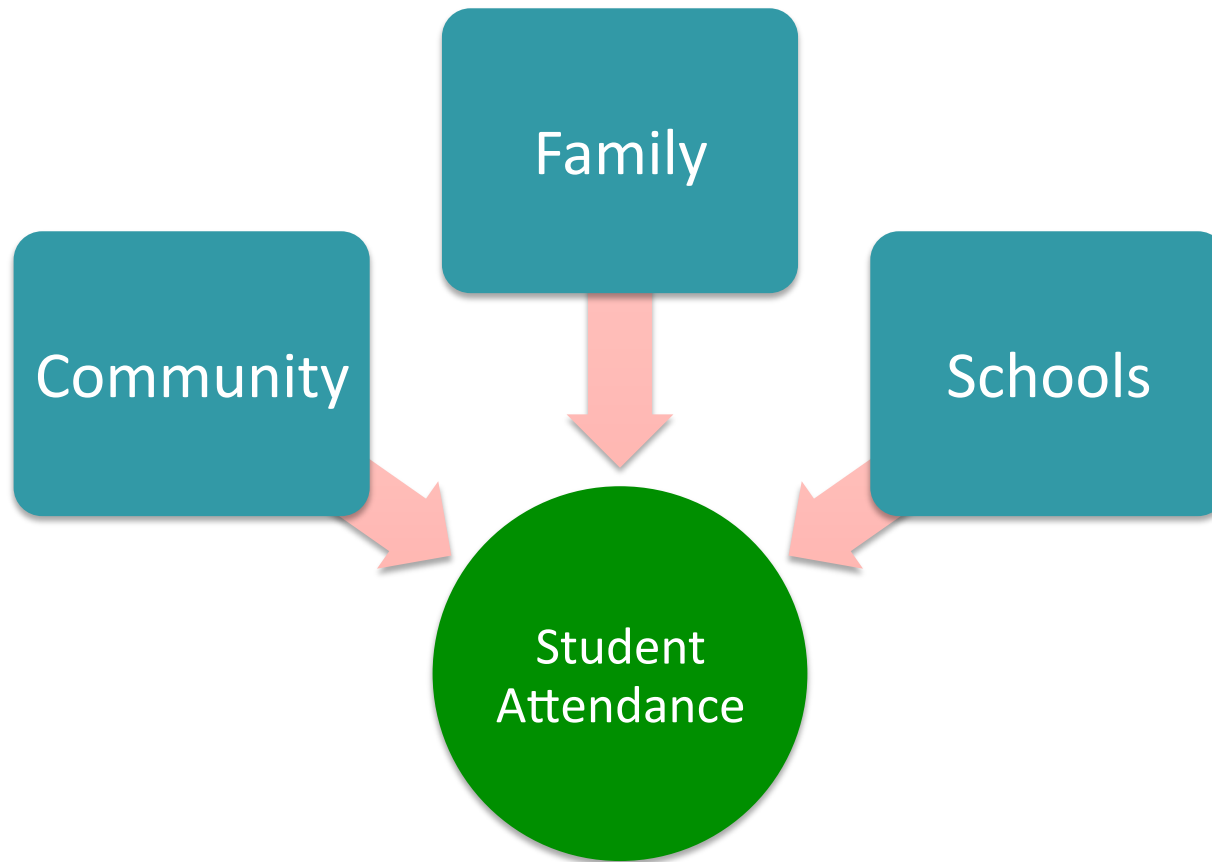
95% ADA ≠ A

Chronic Absence for 6 Elementary Schools (K-5) in an  
Urban School District in Oregon, 2009-2010 @ 95% ADA



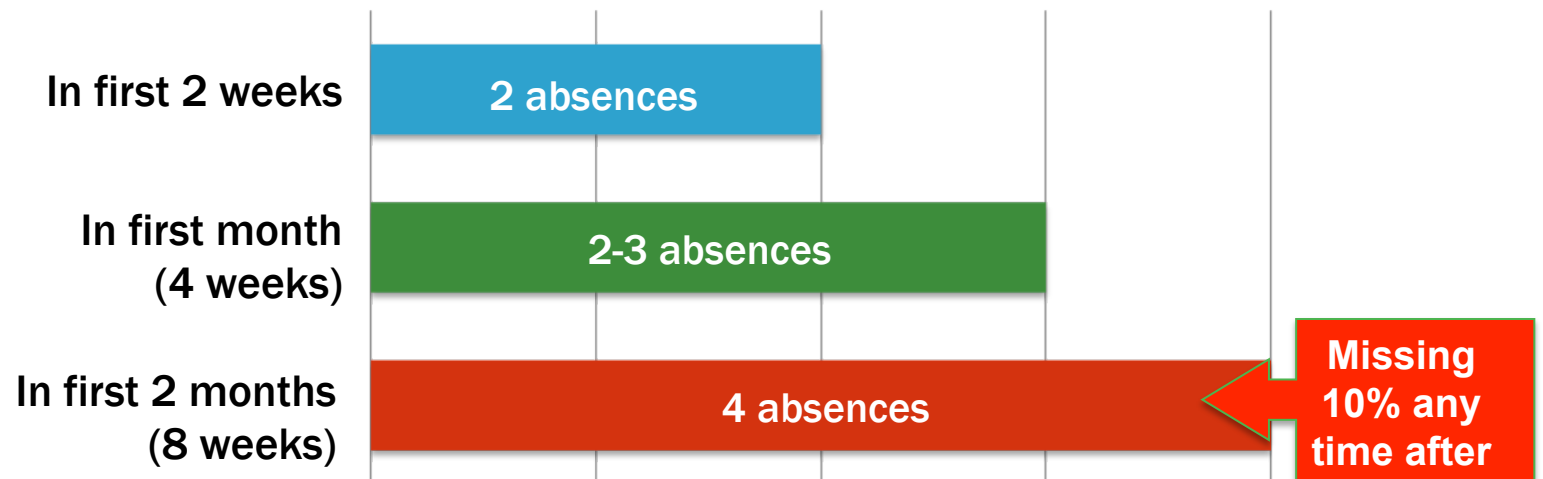
98% ADA = little chronic absence  
95% ADA = don't know  
93% ADA = significant chronic absence

# How Can We Address Chronic Absence? It Takes That Village!



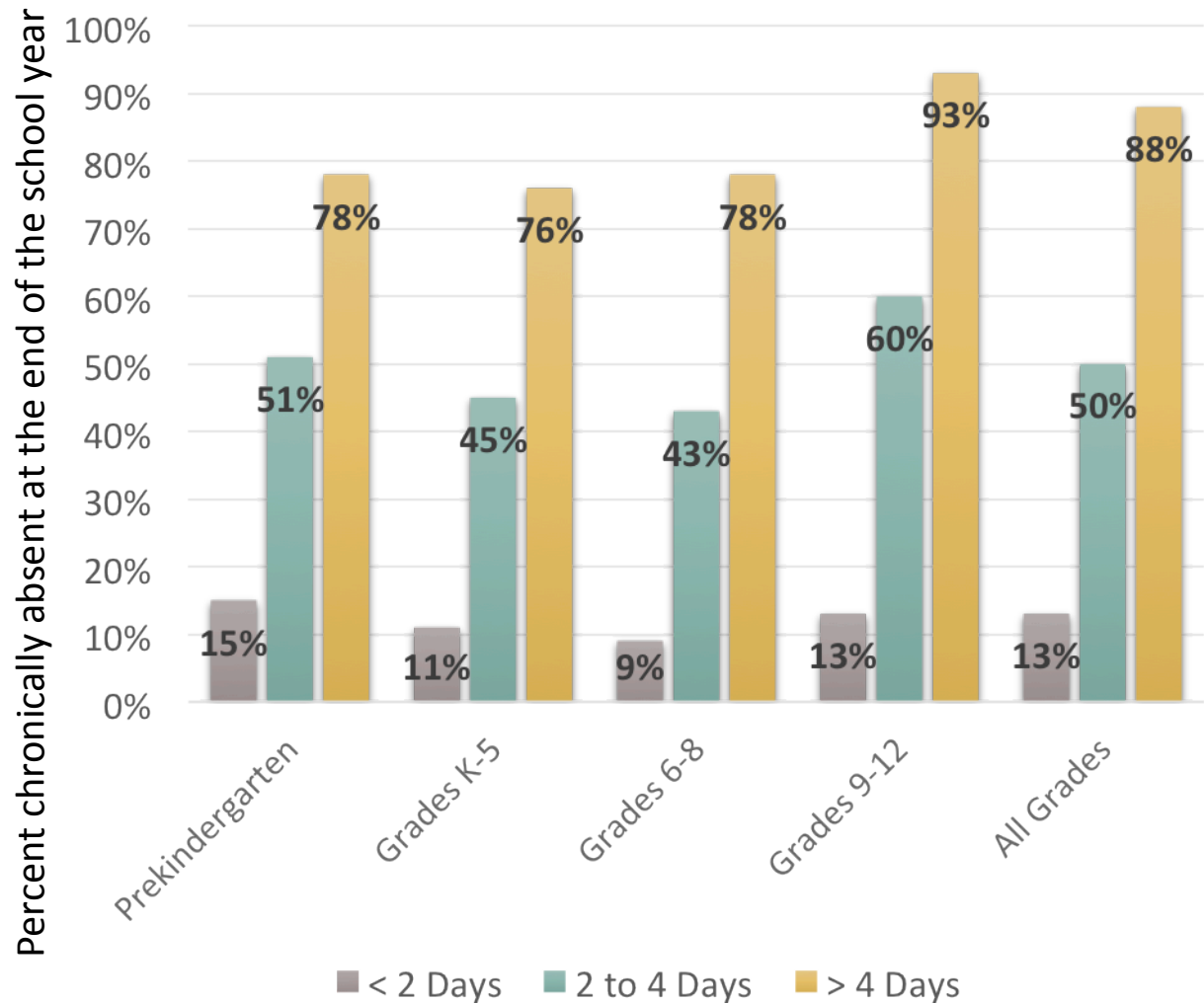
# Reviewing Real Time Absence Data is the First Step

- ❑ Chronic absence (missed 10% or more of school) in the prior year, assuming data is available.
- ❑ And/or starting in the beginning of the school year, student has:



# Students Who Miss 2 or More Days of School in The First Month of School Are Significantly More Likely to Be Chronically Absent by the End of the School Year

- Baltimore students who missed 2-4 days of school in September were 5 times as likely to be chronically absent.
- Students who missed 5 or more days of school in September were 16 times as likely to be chronically absent.





# Find Out **Why** Kids Are Chronically Absent

## Myths

Absences are only a problem if they are unexcused

Sporadic versus consecutive absences aren't a problem

Attendance only matters in the older grades

## Barriers

Lack of access to health care,  
Lack of use of care

Poor transportation

No safe path to school, Bullying

## Aversion

Child struggling academically

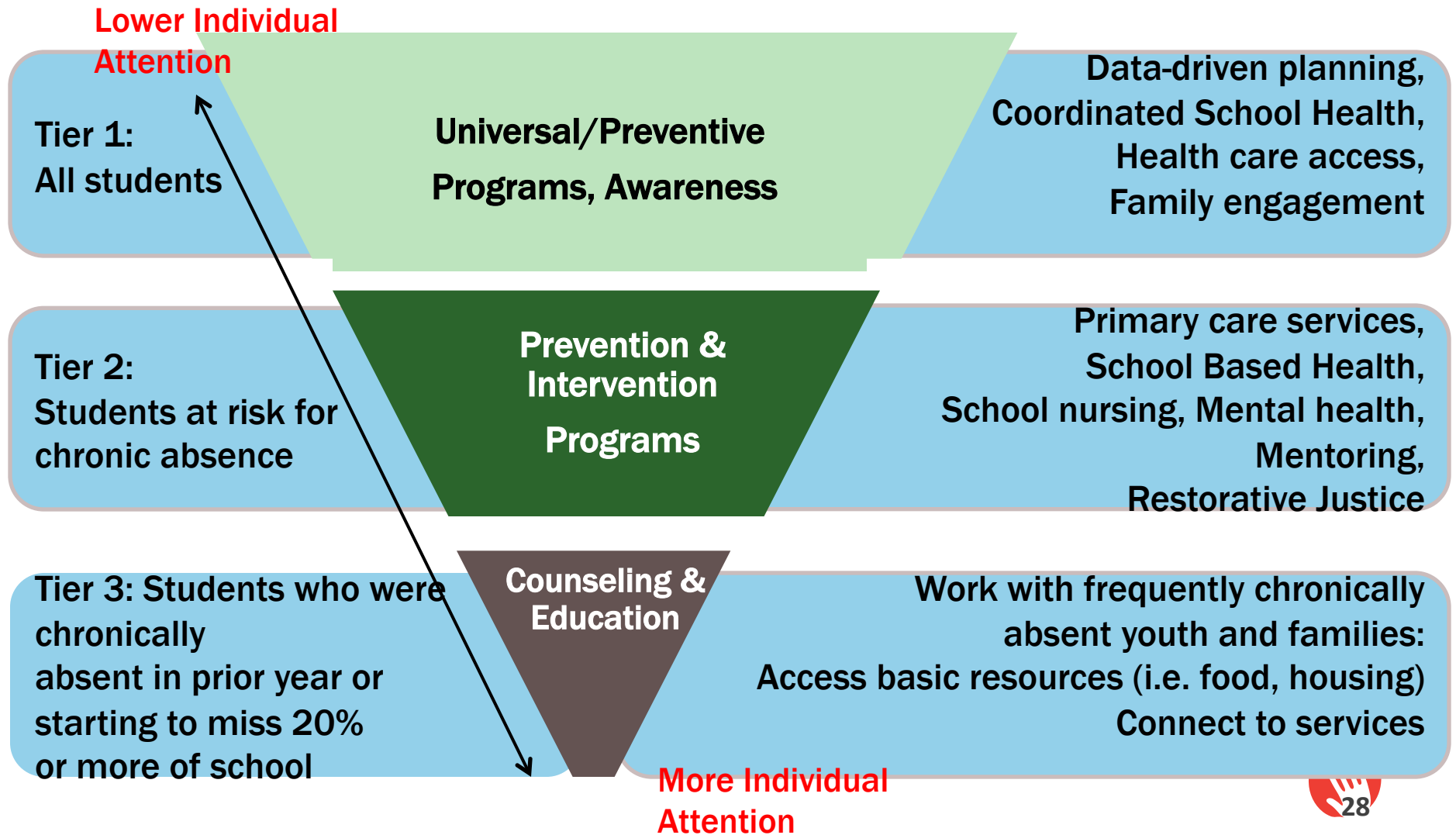
Lack of engaging instruction

Poor school climate and ineffective school discipline

Parents had negative school experience

Sources: Balfanz, R & Byrnes, V.  
(2012 Chang, Hedy, 2013, Personal Communication)

# Collaboration Opportunities to Leverage Attendance Outcomes



# What We Can Do About It...

## Myths

**Absences are only a problem if they are unexcused**

**Sporadic versus consecutive absences aren't a problem**

**Attendance only matters in the older grades**

## Tier 1 – Universal Supports

- **Build a Culture of Attendance**
  - EVERY day matters! (at home, at school, in community)
  - Media attention
- **Community Ask for Real Time Attendance Data – Share Accountability**
  - Schools Collect it daily
  - Review weekly at least
  - Find out why missing school

Sources: Balfanz, R & Byrnes, V. (2012) The Importance of Being There: A Report on Absenteeism In the Nation's Public Schools, Johns Hopkins University 1-46.

Railsback, J. (2004) Increasing Student Attendance: Strategies from Research and Practice, Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory

# Don't Think Attendance Is Important?



Students who graduate from high school

**make a MILLION DOLLARS more**

in a lifetime than students who don't.

This concept was developed by young people in a Wide Angle Youth Media workshop ([www.wideanglemedia.org](http://www.wideanglemedia.org)) in collaboration with Ladderback Design ([www.ladderbackdesign.com](http://www.ladderbackdesign.com)), the Open Society Institute-Baltimore, the Baltimore Student Attendance Work Group and the ACLU of Maryland. For more information on attendance, call City Schools at (443) 984-1214.

# What We Can Do About It...

## Aversion

Child struggling academically

Lack of engaging instruction

Poor school climate and ineffective school discipline

Parents had negative school experience

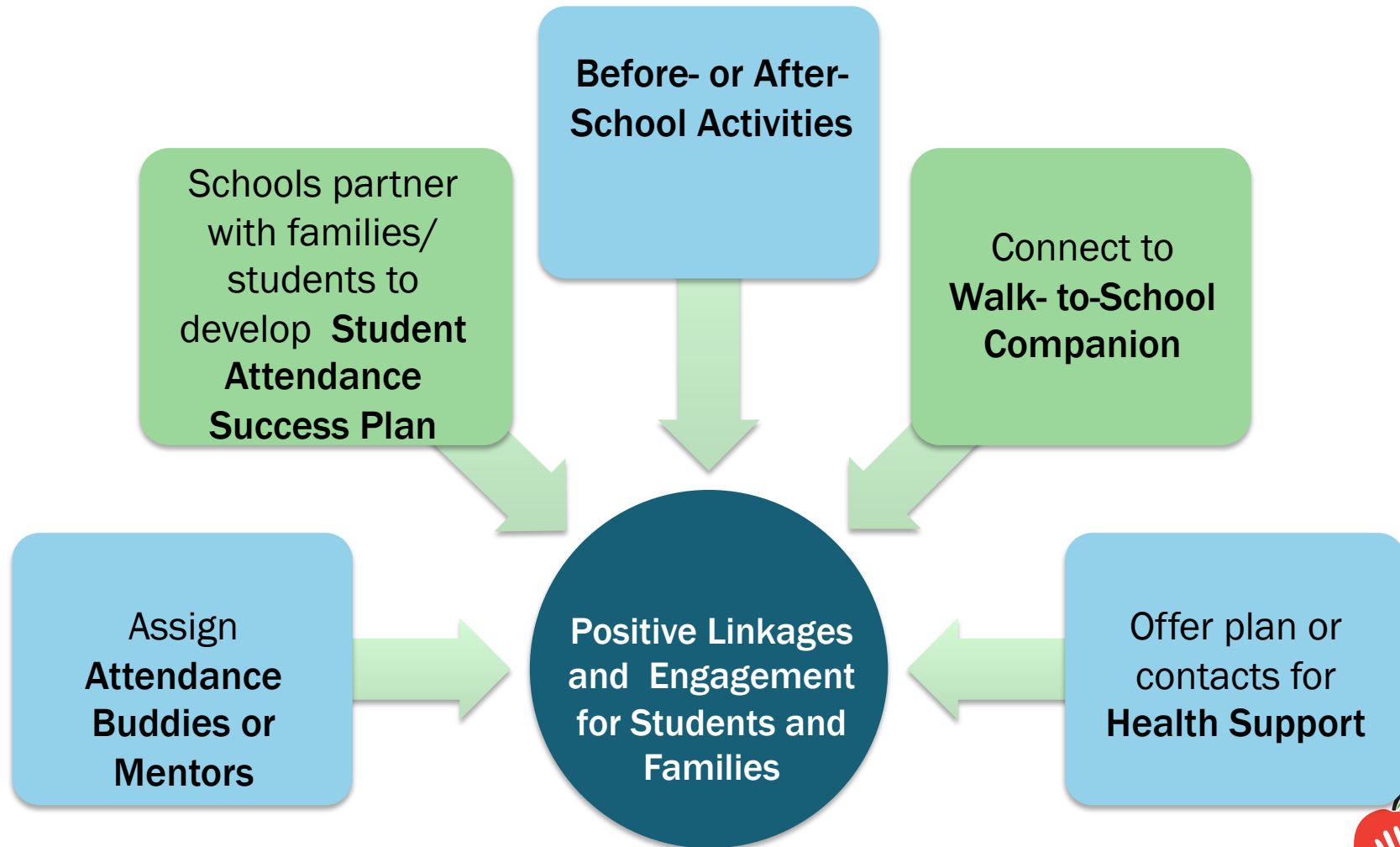
## Tiers 1 & 2:

- Help Create Positive School Culture – Positive Messages
  - Welcome all children
  - Reward attendance
- Culturally Competent Engagement – Families & Kids
- Restorative Discipline
- Mentoring

Sources: Balfanz, R & Byrnes, V. (2012) The Importance of Being There: A Report on Absenteeism In the Nation's Public Schools, Johns Hopkins University 1-46.

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# Possible Ways to Connect



# What We Can Do About It...

## Barriers

Lack of access to health care,  
Lack of use of care

Poor transportation

No safe path to school, Bullying

## Tiers 2 & 3:

- **Build Capacity and take action based on data:**
  - Integrate social and health services with education
  - Fund transportation
  - Anti-bullying policies

Sources: Balfanz, R & Byrnes, V. (2012) The Importance of Being There: A Report on Absenteeism In the Nation's Public Schools, Johns Hopkins University 1-46.

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# Priority Early Outreach for Positive Linkages and Engagement (PEOPLE)

- **P**riority: Focuses on at-risk students in grades, schools and neighborhoods with high levels of chronic absence
- **E**arly: Begins with the start of school.
- **O**utreach: Connects to students and families
- **P**ositive: Promotes preventive, supportive approaches rather than punitive responses
- **L**inkages Taps the full community for support
- **E**ngagement: Motivates showing up to class & offers students & families a role in improving attendance.





# We are the villagers

## Supported

Access to Health  
Care &  
Transportation

Stable Home  
Food  
Safe Path to School

Resources to Catch  
Up on Learning

## Welcomed

Positive School  
Climate

Engaging  
Instruction

All Cultures  
Embraced

## Opportunities

Attending School

Learning, Engaged

Meeting  
Benchmarks  
Graduating

Sources: Balfanz, R & Byrnes, V.  
(2012 Chang, Hedy, 2013, Personal Communication)

QUESTIONS?