

## Does Our School Health Center Help to Reduce Chronic Absence and Improve School Attendance?

(Revised February 25, 2011)

Key Element	Strength	OK for Now	Could be Better	Urgent Gap	Not Sure	Implication(s) for Action
1. We help <b>educate families and students</b> about the importance of school attendance and avoiding absence unless a child is truly ill.						
2. Our school tracks which students are absent because of illness. We <b>review the data together</b> to identify if significant numbers of students are missing school due to chronic or episodic illness.						
3. We have a <b>process for getting student-level attendance data</b> (e.g., parent/guardian authorization for release of information from school district, or via referrals from district staff)						
4. We work with school staff to <b>reach out to chronically absent students and their families</b> to identify barriers to attendance (e.g., conduct home visits).						
5. We are part of a <b>multi-disciplinary team</b> that works together to address the needs of students who are chronically absent.						
6. We help <b>screen and assess</b> the level of unmet physical and mental health needs among students to ensure poor health is not a barrier to attendance.						
7. We <b>deliver needed health services</b> (medical, mental health, social) or make service connections for students with identified health barriers to attendance.						
8. We provide ongoing, individual <b>case management</b> for chronically absent students and families.						
9. We <b>meet with school leadership</b> to discuss how health issues are affecting attendance and academic performance and agree upon what are the best strategies for intervention.						
10. We <b>track and evaluate</b> whether our health interventions are having a positive impact on school attendance.						