PEOPLE Webinar Discussion Guide:

Our [Sept. 30 webinar](http://awareness.attendanceworks.org/resources/webinars/) offers schools and communities a closer look at a step-by-step approach to intervening with chronically absent students early in the school year. If you want to spark a lively conversation with your colleagues at the conclusion of the webinar, feel free to build off of the questions below. We offer two options: a short set of questions and a longer set, if you have more time to go in-depth.

For a shorter discussion:

1.      What was one big idea you drew from today’s presentation? (share in a circle, or, if you group is large, share with the person on your left and the person on your right, if on a conference call the facilitator can either open it up or invite people to share by name)

2.       Do you have the data to determine which schools or students to target? If not, what would it take to get that data?

3.       What are the key next steps for ensuring there is a team in place to advance a PEOPLE strategy in your school or community?

For a longer discussion:

What was one big idea you drew from today’s presentation? (share in a circle, or, if you group is large, share with the person on your left and the person on your right, if on a conference call the facilitator can either open it up or invite people to share by name)

How might the PEOPLE strategy work for the students that you serve?

Review the elements of the PEOPLE strategy. Use the questions below to identify what would you need to implement this strategy in your district or school.

Priority – Do you have the information to select the schools, neighborhoods or grade levels that have the highest rates of chronic absenteeism? In which of these schools do you have champions—that is, school leaders and community-based organizations willing and able to do the work?

Early – What do we need to know in order to reach out now?

Outreach – Who is available and equipped to reach out to families and students?

Positive – If you looked at a spectrum of approaches to improving attendance ranging from extremely harsh and punitive to positive and supportive, where would you place your school’s efforts? What changes, if any, would be needed to move towards more positive interactions with students and families?

Linkages – What groups within the school and the larger school community can we draw upon to establish more positive connections with students?

Engagement – What would motivate students who are disengaged to come to school? Who are the trusted messengers who can share the right messages about the importance of attendance with disengaged families?

What additional resources – money, data, knowledge, people – do we need to implement the PEOPLE strategy?

What are our next steps?