



Welcomed: Embracing Students, Families and Educators in the New School Year
Attendance Awareness Campaign Webinar #3 Discussion Guide
August 4, 2021

Below are a suggested set of discussion questions for schools and communities to reflect upon insights gained from this webinar. Feel free to use some or all of the questions to prompt a rich conversation about how to take action.

1. Creating Community at School:

- a. Do you have a team of school and community partners who can develop and implement an engagement strategy?
- b. How might you involve students and families in the design of planning for the return to school in the fall?
- c. Are there existing activities leading up to the first day of school and in the first two weeks of school that help to reinforce and build community? (For examples, please refer to our “**Create Community at School**” activities grid:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UJKQuiXZYk6OwklvV4j-vMwV7gL1DY_w/view)

2. Identifying and Reaching Out to Priority Groups:

- a. Are there any particular groups of students in your school or community who missed a lot of school during the past school year due to chronic absence, losing contact with the school district or delaying enrollment in school last year? If so, who are they? Are they from particular grades or student groups? Are they concentrated in particular schools or neighborhoods? What do you know about their strengths and attendance barriers?

3. Building Community at School for Engagement and Relationship Building.

- a. What insights did you gain from the speakers on the webinar about how to create enriching activities that provide support for students and families and encourage their engagement in the community?
- b. How will you ensure that the students who have experienced the most challenges during the past school year benefit from community building activities?
- c. How do the different examples of community building at school apply to your situation?
 - i. Community Schools Strategy
 - ii. Community partnerships
 - iii. District led initiatives