



Student Connectedness Fosters Attendance and Engagement

Attendance Awareness Campaign 2025 Webinar #3 Discussion Guide August 6, 2025

Below are a suggested set of discussion questions for districts, schools and communities to use when reflecting on 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.

Examining Data on Chronic Absence and Student Connectedness

1. What are the levels of chronic absence in your schools or districts? What percent of students are chronically absent? How many? Consider using the Attendance Works [data tools](#).
2. Do you know if the lack of student connectedness is a challenge in your school or district?
 - a. Are students connected to a caring adult?
 - b. Do students have opportunities to connect with peers?
 - c. Are students offered opportunities to engage in meaningful activities?
 - d. Do students feel a sense of belonging in school?
3. If you don't know the answers to these questions, how might you conduct [relationship mapping](#), [surveys](#) or [focus groups](#) to find out?

Cultivating Student Connectedness

Building off ideas offered during this webinar:

1. How can you strengthen connections between adults and students in your school, district or community? What programs can you build upon? Who can help nurture those connections?
2. How can you increase peer connections among students in your school or district? Do you have programs to build upon? Who could get involved?
3. How could you encourage more students to get engaged in meaningful activities (sports, drama, art, public services clubs, etc.)? Who can help make this possible? Can you leverage existing afterschool programming or youth groups? Students?
4. How might schools do more to create a sense of belonging? What currently works? Where are the gaps that need to be addressed?