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National Youth Advocacy and Resilience
Conference

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Mar 2nd, 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Count Yourself In: Encouraging Students to Take the 180-Day Challenge

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“Count Yourself In”

Encouraging students to take the 180-Day Challenge

“Promoting school attendance through Education, Motivation,
Communication and Collaboration.”

WHILE YOU WERE OUT !

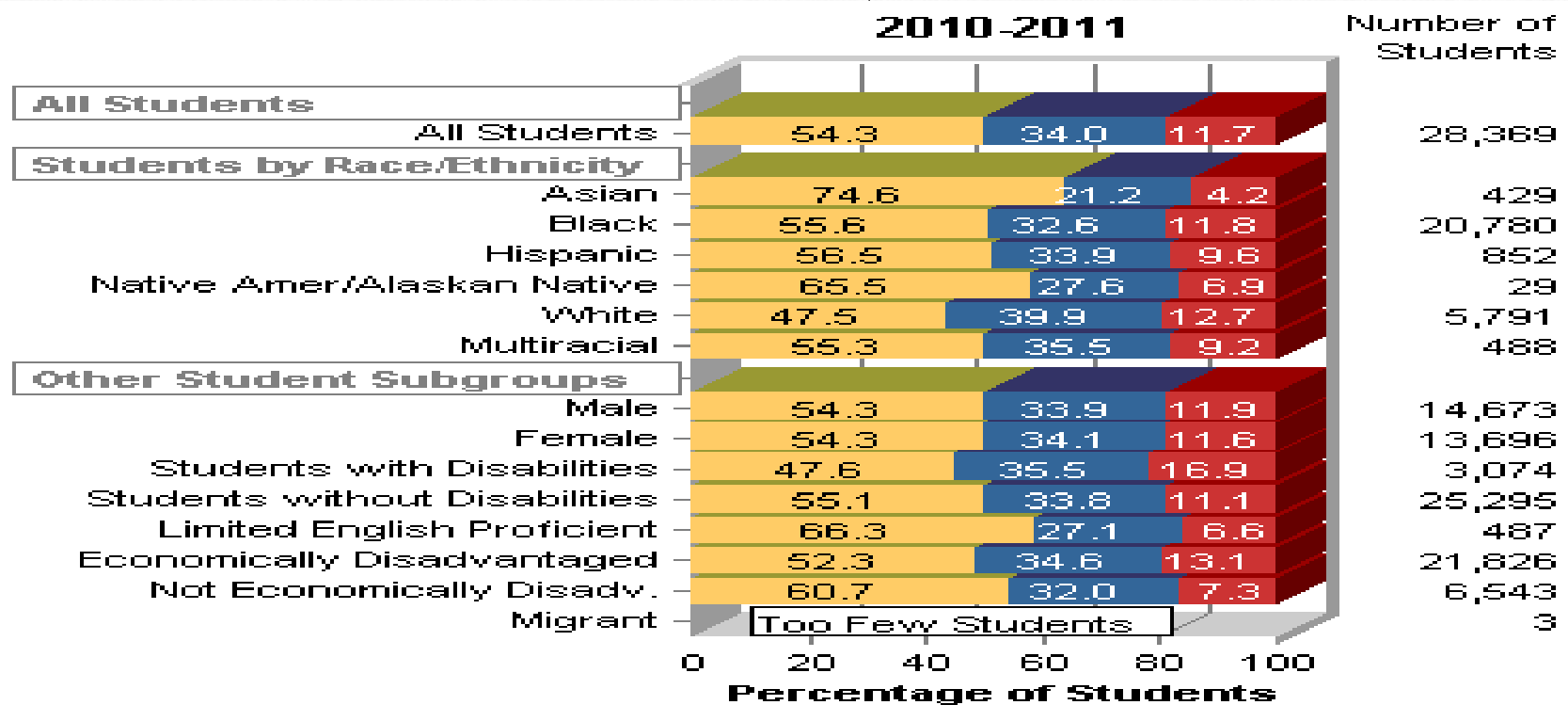




STATS

- “Nationally, an estimated 5 million to 7.5 million students are chronically absent each year or 1 in 10 students”. (attendanceworks.org, 2013)
- “By 3rd grade students who are chronically absent are less likely to read on grade level”. (attendanceworks.org, 2013)
- “By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes an early warning sign that a student may drop out of high school”. (attendanceworks.org, 2013)
- “In school districts where state aid is determine by average daily attendance, chronic absence costs schools millions of dollars each year”. (attendanceworks.org, 2013)
- Georgia DOE 2010-2011 Attendance Report shows that 34% of the student population in Bibb County had been absent from 6-15 days. 11.7% of the student population was absent 15 or more days.
- An increase in the graduation rate for boys of just 5% could save the \$4.9 billion annually in crime-related costs. (Alliance for Excellent Education, 2006).

Georgia DOE Report Card for School Attendance Bibb County



5 or Fewer Days Absent
 6 to 15 Days Absent
 More Than 15 Days Absent

MAY 2014 GRADUATES BY SCHOOL

SCHOOL	GRADUATES
Central High School	185
Howard High School	225
Hutchings Career Center	48
Northeast High School	121
Rutland High School	200
Southwest High School	128
Westside High School	216
May, 2014 - Total Number of Graduates	1,123

Data shows in BCSD, there are more high school students who missed 15 or more days from school in 2013-2014 than there are May 2014 high school graduates.

1,798 Students absent 15 or more days from school in 2013-2014 school year.

1,123 in May 2014 high school graduates.

WHAT CAUSES TRUANCY?

“Truancy often is a symptom of more serious problems.” (gadoe.com)



SEVERAL CAUSES OF TRUANCY

LACK OF RESOURCES FOR SCHOOL (I.E. SCHOOL UNIFORMS, SUPPLIES, TRANSPORTATION, ETC.)

HEALTH ISSUES

MOTIVATION ISSUES

BEHAVIORS

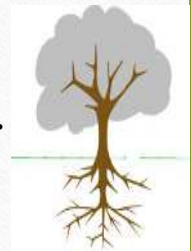
MENTAL HEALTH

BULLYING

ACADEMIC ISSUES, Etc.

Retrieved from Education.com, “Truancy Fact Sheet”

**NEVER ASSUME THAT TRUANCY IS A “WILL” ISSUE, IT MAY BE SITUATIONAL.
GET TO THE ROOT OF THE ISSUE!**



FOCUS SIMULATION



WHAT IF ???



Attendance Works

Advancing Student Success By Reducing Chronic Absence



- Attendance Works is a national and state initiative that promotes better policy and practice around school attendance.
- We promote tracking chronic absence data for each student beginning in kindergarten, or ideally earlier, and partnering with families and community agencies to intervene when poor attendance is a problem for students or schools.
- Attendance Awareness Month (September 2014) is a nationwide event recognizing the connection between school attendance and academic achievement. The goal is to mobilize schools and communities not only to promote the value of good attendance but also to take concrete steps toward reducing chronic absence.

*"If children aren't in school,
they don't learn. Improving school attendance improves success in school."*

Hedy Chang, Director of Attendance Works



Promoting school attendance through EDUCATION...

- Educating the parents of newly registered Pre- K & Kindergarten students about the importance of school attendance at Open House and/or Orientation Activities.
- Educating previously identified truant students and their families about BCSD attendance policies and community resources through Mandatory Attendance Sessions. (MAS can be held in conjunction with open house or other parent/school functions)
- Educating parents of elementary, middle and high school students about district attendance policies and procedures through the use of pledge cards.
- Educating students about the importance of school attendance through curriculum integration. (ex. Attendance PSA Assignment/CTAE, School Attendance Essay, Debate, poem, etc./ELA, Allow students to chart/graph their own school attendance/Math, School Attendance LOGO drawing contest/Art, etc.)
- Educating teachers about the importance of student school attendance by creating a culture of attendance curriculum integration through small incentives. (ex. Most creative attendance integrated lesson/assignment earns a free dress-down day, lunch on the house, free 20 minute ticket for early dismissal, etc.)
- Educating students about the importance of school attendance by combining character education skills for the month of September with school attendance. (Perseverance & Self-Control)
- Educating students about the importance of school attendance by integrating attendance policies, benefits of regular school attendance and consequences of poor school attendance into the school day. (during announcements with a “did you know” fact of the day/week, posting posters and fact sheets, having tips and resources accessible in heavily populated areas with-in the school)



SAMPLE CCGPS ALIGNED CURRICULUM

Elementary/ Math K-5

Task: Students will create a representation of their school attendance by graphing corresponding points on a coordinate plane.

- MCC1.MD.4 Organize, represent, and interpret data with up to three categories; ask and answer questions about the total number of data points, how many in each category, and how many more or less are in one category than in another.
- MCC3.MD.3 Draw a scaled picture graph and a scaled bar graph to represent a data set with several categories. Solve one- and two-step “how many more” and “how many less” problems using information presented in scaled bar graphs. *For example, draw a bar graph in which each square in the bar graph might represent 5 pets.*
- MCC5.G.2 Represent real world and mathematical problems by graphing points in the first quadrant of the coordinate plane, and interpret coordinate values of points in the context of the situation.



INTEGRATED ATTENDANCE



SCHOOL COUNSELOR INTEGRATES SCHOOL ATTENDANCE INTO GUIDANCE LESSONS!
R2, THE SCHOOL ROBOT DANCED TO THE SONG, "HAPPY", BECAUSE WE ARE HAPPY TO ATTEND
SCHOOL EVERYDAY! ALL DAY! ON TIME!



EDUCATE PARENTS ABOUT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



LITERATURE



ATTENDANCE FORUMS



PTA/ PARENT NIGHTS



DISCUSSION



HOW CAN WE INTEGRATE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE INTO COMMON
CORE GEORGIA PERFORMANCE STANDARDS,
GUIDANCE LESSONS, CASE PLANNING, ETC. ?

Share Ideas!



Promoting school attendance through **MOTIVATION...**

- Motivate students through incentives. (ex. Recognize MIA Most Improved Attendance, “shot-outs”, certificates, extra privileges, lunch coupons for free item, extra credit, “Attendance Wall”, free entrance to school activity, free item at concession, wear jeans for a day, “Knock-Out Truancy” Activity, etc.)
- Motivate students through participation in the Cherry Blossom Festival Parade
- Motivate students through “friendly competition”. (ex. class with least absences has popcorn party, attendance themed door decorating contest/poster contest, attendance display contest, song/rap writing contest, t-shirt decorating contest, etc.)
- Motivate students through the family. (ex. Luncheon for MIA and parents, parent/student movie day at school & invite parent, Acknowledge parents for PA, etc.)
- Motivate students by creating Attendance T-shirts for students/faculty to wear.(attendance themed T-shirt decorating contest)

“Improving attendance requires a comprehensive approach that goes beyond sanctions and includes incentives.” (attendanceworks.org, 2013)



MOTIVATION



Pep Rally with Attendance Games



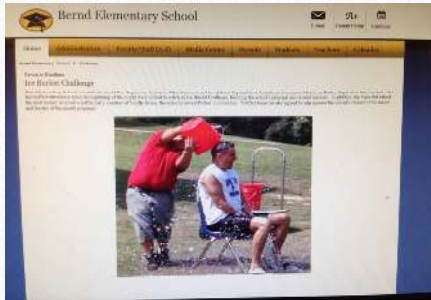
Small Tokens



“Friendly Competitions”



MORE MOTIVATION



Staff Involvement(Elementary)



Attendance Bulletin Boards(Elementary)



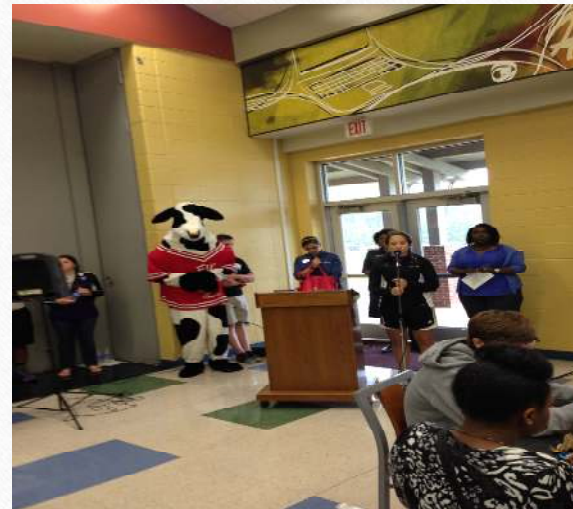
Poster Challenges (High)



PARTNERSHIP MOTIVATION



WAFFLE HOUSE SPONSORED BREAKFAST FOR STUDENTS WITH PERFECT ATTENDANCE



CHICK-FIL-A DONATED FOOD ITEMS TO HELP BRING AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



Promoting school attendance through **COMMUNICATION...**

- Communicate attendance policies and procedures with parents through parent nights and school functions. (ex. Set up an attendance table/booth at Spring Fling or Fall festival)
- Communicate the importance of school attendance to parents via calling tree announcements and other correspondence. (flyer informing parents of class competition, gentle reminders of school start and end times and the importance of school attendance, etc.)
- Communicate the importance of school attendance through social media by launching Attendance Awareness month, “Count Yourself In”, Facebook page and Twitter Account.
- Communicate the importance of school attendance to our community by posting school attendance posters, flyers/ fact sheets in community agencies (ex. Health Department, DFCS, children’s health center, mental health centers, hospitals, etc.)
- Communicate the importance of school attendance by utilizing various communications. (ex. Billboards, marquee, city transportation signs, etc.)
- Communicate the importance of school attendance through an official City Proclamation during Attendance Awareness Month (if possible, through collaborating with local government members)



COMMUNICATE ABOUT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



ATTENDANCE TABLE AT SPRING FLING, FALL FESTIVALS, ETC.



ATTENDANCE STATION AT OPEN HOUSE, PARENT NIGHTS, ETC.



SCHOOL WEBSITES



COMMUNICATE ABOUT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Parents, welcome to your Charger POP (Promoting Our Pupils) Week of September 8, 2014

Attendance Awareness Month - See attached

The Bibb county school district will be proclaiming the month of September 2014 as Attendance Awareness month. Did you know that in Bibb County, we had more high school students to miss 15 or more days from school, than we had students to graduate in the May 2014 commencement ceremony? Please join us as we stand as a united front to encourage our students to Attend School, Every day! All day! On time! Count yourself in.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS



COMMUNITY BULLETIN'S



Promote school attendance through
COLLABORATION...

- Collaboration with community partners to help spread the word of the importance of school attendance.
- Collaboration with local businesses to provide incentives for students and families.
- Collaboration with local agencies and or businesses to adopt a class. (The class with the most improved attendance)
- Collaborate with local medical/health providers to include in well check exams information about the importance of school attendance on child development.
- Collaborate with local agencies so that posters, flyers and other forms of communications can be posted in their establishments.



ATTENDANCE AWARENESS LUNCH & LEARN COLLABORATION



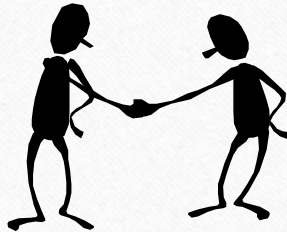
Mercer University, CGTC & Wesleyan College Athletes



News coverage of Lunch & Learn
41WGXA



Community Partners



Who's In....

- Macon Housing Authority
- Macon-Bibb County Parks and Recreations
- Bibb County Health Department
- Children's Health Center
- Small Smiles General Dentistry
- Bibb County Juvenile Court
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Primary Pediatrics
- Family Counseling Center
- Museum of Arts & Sciences
- Georgia Sports Hall of Fame
- International House of Pancakes
- United Way Vista Program
- Chick-Fil-A
- Gear-Up Grant
- Mercer University Athletics
- Wesleyan College Athletics
- Central GA Technical College Athletics
- Frito Lay
- Waffle House
- Cherry Blossom Festival

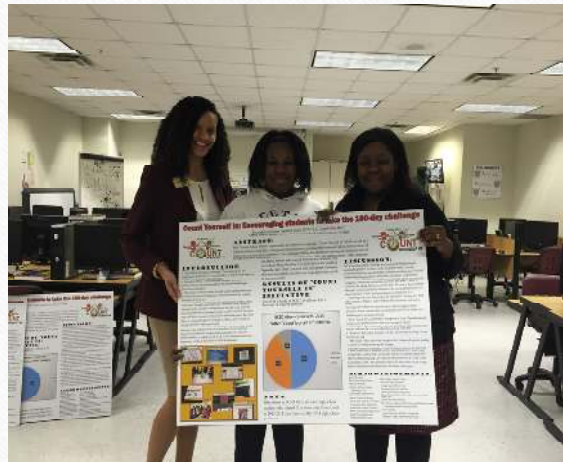
ATTENDANCE WORKS

ATTENDANCE ACTION MAP





Special Acknowledgement



Special Thanks to Hutchings College & Career Charter Academy and student LaRissa Young
LaRissa created the “Count Yourself In” Logo!



Let's help STOMP truancy!

- Stay in contact with Students & Parents
- Target students with High absences
- Organize teams to address Truancy
- Monitor Absences
- Provide Education and Incentives for Students & Families

Let's Work together and encourage our students to take the 180 Day Challenge!

ATTEND SCHOOL: ON TIME, EVERY DAY & ALL DAY!

“COUNT YOURSELF IN!”



QUESTIONS??

For More information Contact:

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