

# Breaking Barriers to Attendance

Barrier to Attendance	Potential Actions
<p><b>Parents do not understand that attendance in the early years matters for academic success.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Promote a culture of attendance that educates parents about the value of the learning/skill development that begins with school entry.</li> <li>✓ Work with child care and pre-K providers to emphasize the importance of attendance.</li> <li>✓ Offer orientation/education for parents new to the school that emphasizes regular attendance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Students are not encouraged to attend school.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provide incentives/rewards/recognition for good attendance.</li> <li>✓ Remind students through personal calls.</li> <li>✓ Train trusted adult mentors and afterschool leaders to reinforce the importance of attendance.</li> <li>✓ Ensure that the curriculum includes engaging, team-based activities that students do not want to miss.</li> <li>✓ Provide academic support to students who are struggling so school becomes a place of success rather than a negative experience.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Students have chronic health or mental health issues that keep them out of school regularly.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Promote access to free and low-cost health insurance.</li> <li>✓ Create school-based health clinics.</li> <li>✓ Address environmental issues within the community (e.g., air quality, lead exposure).</li> <li>✓ Establish wellness policies that encourage healthy eating and more physical activity to reduce the negative health effects of obesity.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Students do not feel safe traveling to school.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Add sidewalks or initiate walking school buses to help children reach school safely.</li> <li>✓ Establish community watch programs and ask community police officers to increase their presence during the hour before and after school.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Parents do not trust or feel comfortable with schools.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Conduct home visits to meet parents.</li> <li>✓ Provide a school liaison to support parents and address their concerns.</li> <li>✓ Personally invite parents to engage in the school as volunteers and offer a range of options.</li> <li>✓ Offer family services or activities in the school.</li> </ul>