

Attendance and Credit
Recovery at The Webb Schools,
a part of **The Center for School**
Engagement:
School Interventions

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Thursday January 19, 2023

Quiz!!!

- How many students are enrolled in public schools in the US?
- Connecticut?

Not a competition and we all need some mercy!

- The 2022 / 2023 school year marks the fourth year where home and school habits, routines, and practices have been disrupted by COVID.
- Parents and school staff have had to provide several different learning environments with “on the fly” training – Remote, Hybrid, In-person, etc.
- All while caring for the physical and emotional wellbeing of their children and students.

Begins with Mindset!

“Sometimes we need to hold onto the hope for our students and their families until they’re able to.”

-Barry Michelson

“Believe it before you see it!”

-Charlie Applestein

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.”

-Marianne Williamson

Mindset continued

- ◉ We operate from the mindset that kids want to be successful students, feel smart, and be in school!
- ◉ Kids want to feel safe and free from judgement and shame.
- ◉ We believe that parents are doing the best that they can.

Moving from Mindset to Engagement

Moving from Mindset to Engagement

- We attempt to become experts on our students and their families (respectfully).
- We seek to understand what is at the root of their behavior and school avoidance.
- We **join** with students and families in the obstacles but **support focus and energy** on solutions.
 - Joe's 90 / 10 Rule

Engagement continued

- We have fun! We remind students that school is supposed to be FUN 😊



Engagement continued



GOOD MORNING AMY!

School's not nearly as scary as me!

Engagement continued

- A large part of the process is opening the lines of communication in the manner they feel most comfortable (Students and their parents)
 - Text
 - Email
 - Phone conversation
 - Virtual (explore what they can access - Zoom, Google Meets, Microsoft Teams, etc.)
 - Face to face (following all COVID protocols and being respectful that some families are still fearful of contracting COVID)

Engagement Special Note

- **BOUNDARIES!!!!** Set and follow agreed upon protocols.
- * Communication should be done within school/business hours.
- Initial communication to develop rapport, but also set appropriate expectations and boundaries.
- Help them remember a time when they were successful!!!
 - And then work from there.

Best Practices:

3 Strategies we focus on
when working with
students and collaborating
with school districts and
other helping
professionals.

Strategy 1: Document

- Accurately record absences, reasons, and attempts taken by school personnel.
- Use plain, common language.
- Consider filing appropriate petitions early – YSB, Ed. Neglect, Attendance Task Force Team, etc..
- Be transparent, share all with the student and their family.
- Use documentation as a means to build the relationship and diffuse difficult conversations – facts tend to decrease emotion.

Special Note

- School districts should be giving/reviewing attendance laws with parents at the beginning of each school year.
 - Absences 1-9 (parent/guardian reasons allowed but we still classify as “excused” or “unexcused”)
 - Absences 10 and beyond
 - Mental Health Days

From the trenches...

January 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

December 2016					%	Comments
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		
			1	2		
5	6	7	8	9		
12	13	14	15	16		
19	20	21	22	23		
26	27	28	29	30		
January 2017						
2	3	4	5	6		
9	10	11	12	13		
16	17	18	19	20		
23	24	25	26	27		
30	31					
February 2017						
		1	2	3		
6	7	8	9	10		
13	14	15	16	17		
20	21	22	23	24		
27	28					

From the trenches...

September / October 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				Meeting	X (Reward) 12	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	✓	X	X	X	✓ (Reward) 13	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	X	X	✓ AM	✓	✓ (Reward) 14	
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
	✓	X	X	X	Meeting (Reward) 15	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

○ = school ★ = bonus day

February March Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February	2	3	4	5	6	7
	★	★	★	★	X	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	★	X	★	★	School Vacation No school	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Presidents' Day No school	★	★	★	★	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	★	✓	✓	★	★	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	★	★	★	★	★	

SPUMONI IS PURPLE!!!

From the trenches...

Attendance and Credit Recovery at The Webb Schools

March 2019					%	Comments
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		
				1		
4	5	6	7 A	8		
11	12	13	14	15		
18	19 A	20	21 A	22 A		
25	26	27	28 A	29		
April 2019						
1	2	3 A	4 A	5		
8	9	10	11 A	12		
15	16	17	18	19		
22	23	24	25 A	26		
29 A	30					
May 2019						
		1	2	3		
6	7	8 PPT	9	10		
13	14	15	16	17		
20	21	22	23	24		
27	28	29	30	31		

Strategy 2: Set Objectives & Rewards

- **Establish small goals with a high probability of success.**
 - ASK - What are you willing and able to do?
- **Celebrate accomplishments with rewards.**
 - Be specific and appropriate with praise and rewards (many meaningful rewards are inexpensive or don't cost any money at all)
- **Look at percentages – would you invest?**
 - If they were a company...

Rewards

- Hot chocolate or coffee with a friend or preferred staff member
- Surprise students with a “We’ve Noticed” sticky note
- Leave a lollipop or Jolly Rancher on their desk for making it to school after a long weekend or vacation.
- Watch their favorite YouTube video together – share with the class
- Let them be a mentor

Strategy 3: Identify 3 Safe Staff and 3 Safe Spaces

- Ask the student, “Who has your back? Help them identify the staff they feel comfortable with and trust.
- Include those people in daily routines as much as possible.
- Involve those people in the decision-making and planning.
- Make sure all adults are aware of and follow the support plan.

Quick Tips

- Yes / No questions are your friend. Especially in the morning, that's no time for deep emotional conversations and thinking 😊
- Form alliances without taking sides.
- Say "Hi", use their name (find a nickname CBK, Jmoney, etc.), when reaching out.
- Look for situations where credit can be legitimately awarded – build momentum
- Offer compacted curriculum mode with mastery of core content.

Additional thought – Be patient

- Many students with school avoidance are struggling with additional issues below the surface.
- Students and families need time to accept their situation.
- *Our patience and positive attitude helps students feel hopeful, connected and motivated.*

Additional thought - Trust the process and your role

- Continue to be the emotionally regulated, confident adult that your students are counting on you to be. 😊



Like Moving a Train...



Contact Information

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QUESTIONS & COMMENTS