



Consolidated School District of New Britain, CT



- We are aware that chronic absenteeism in New Britain is a contributing factor to our achievement gap.
- District wide data identifies kindergarten and first grade along with high school as our most affected grade levels for chronic absenteeism.





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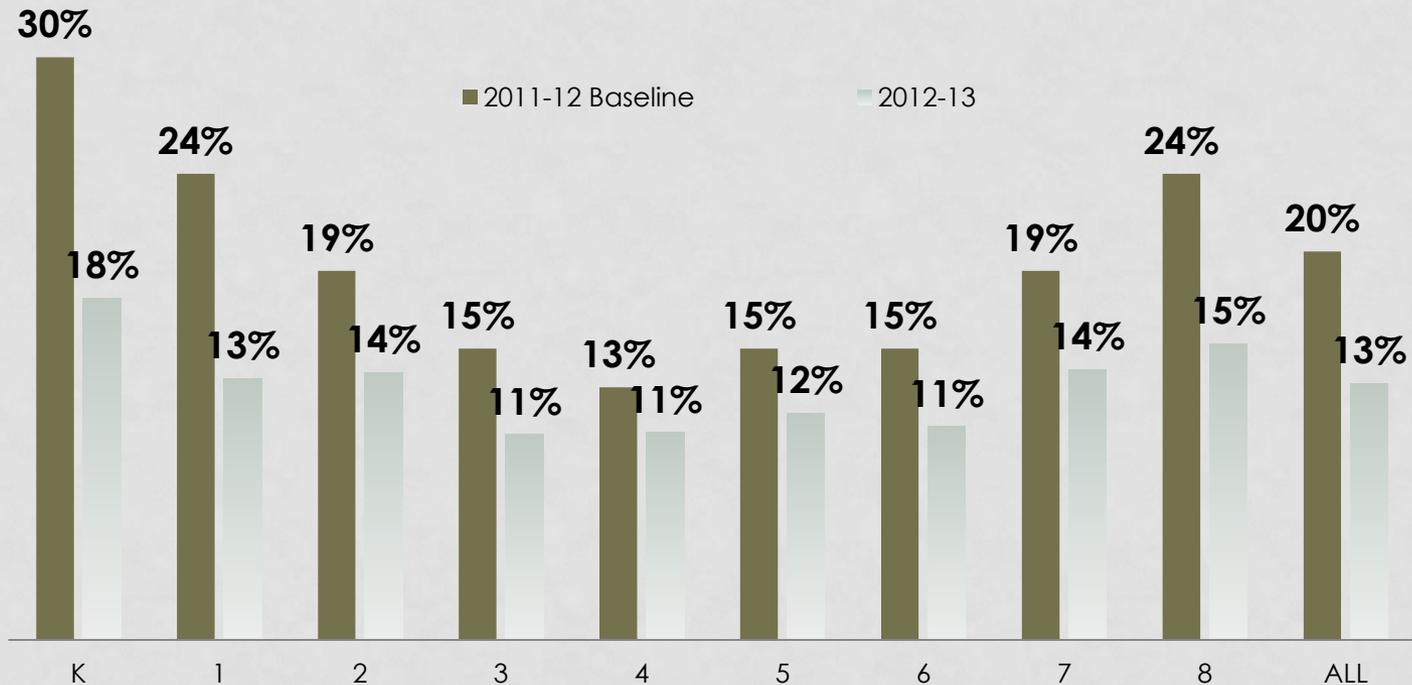
- **Professional development:** trained site administrators and teams to interpret attendance data, adopt best practices and engage in peer learning.
- **Actionable data:** sent report to school(s) every 10 days. The report indicates how many and which students are chronically absent
- **School attendance teams:** monitored the data and ensured appropriate supports are in place.
- **Home visits:** hired two family intervention specialists to conduct home visits to chronically absent kindergartners.
- **Parent engagement and communications:** messaged through newsletters, daily interactions with parents and attendance incentives.
- **Community partnerships:** used community agencies to offer supports at school sites and through a district Attendance Review Committee formed as a diversion to juvenile court and referral to the Department of Children and Families.



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Chronic Absence Drops from 20% to 13% in grades K-8 in New Britain, CT



**VANCE VILLAGE SCHOOL
NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT**



WHY DOES ADDRESSING CHRONIC ABSENCE MATTER FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?

- Vance Village Urban students were missing more than 10% of the school year.
- In grades K, 1, 2: 60% of our students were below grade level in reading and math
- In grades 3, 4, 5: 45% were below grade level
- We analyzed the number of days of students who were chronically absent and compared that to the number of students who were below grade level-correlation
- **Bottom Line: Students miss out on instructional time and learning opportunities when they are not in school.**

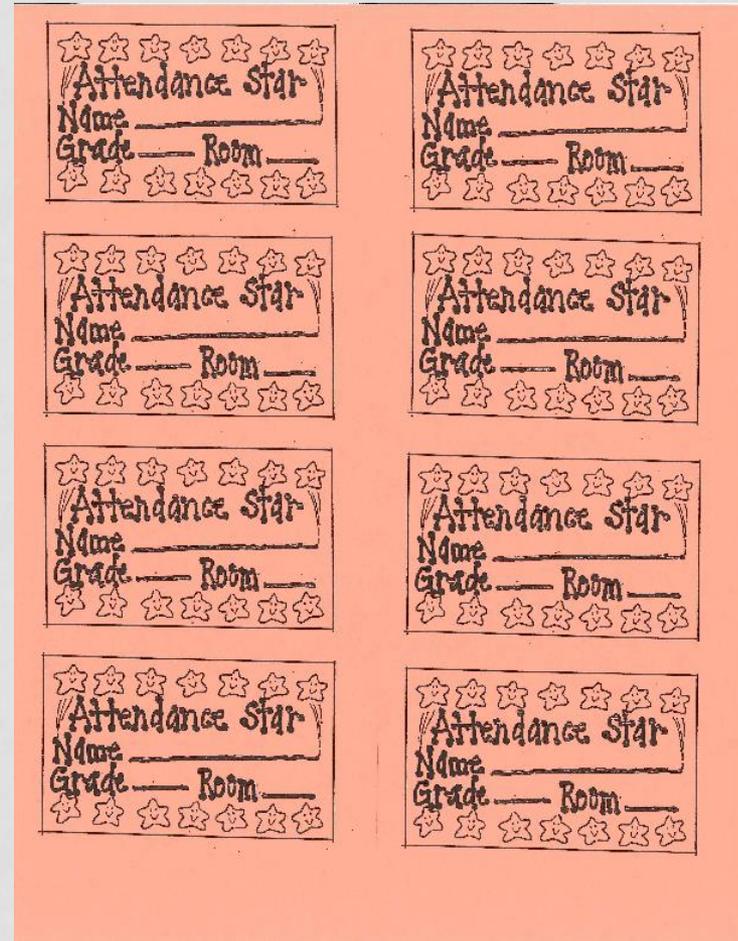
AS A SCHOOL WE HAD TO DECREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO WERE CHRONICALLY ABSENT

- Developed a school wide initiative to uncover the reasons why
- Created a team in the school – social worker, principal, 2 classroom teachers, pe teacher
- Principal participated in district professional development session with Hedy Chang, Attendance Works
- Constructed an action plan
- Reviewed plan with entire staff

VANCE VILLAGE STRATEGIES

- Welcome Back to School message sent in mail to parents from the Principal in August
- Daily morning announcement message by fifth graders encouraging students to come to school every day
- Weekly communication with families on phone message about value of attending school
- Grade level teachers send an monthly message to their students to come to school

- Daily: Students are filling out an attendance star for attending school. Attendance Stars go into box in café for a raffle
- Monthly attendance raffle
- Showcase with photos of students who win the raffle outside office



STUDENT ATTENDANCE MEETINGS

- Every Tuesday at 8:45am School Attendance Team meets to review chronic absences and set up meeting schedule
- Meetings with families occur every week to dig deeper and find out why students are not attending school
- Plan of support is put in place
- Follow up date to meet is set up

WHO IS INVOLVED?

- All Vance Village Staff participate
- All staff state same message!
- Community members have become partners with the school to support our initiative
- Raffle prizes and donations for students: South Church, Max's Pizza, Walmart
- C-Town, Target, staff dress down days

RESULTS

- In our monthly Vance At A Glance newsletter we display graphs indicating our progress and photos
- Monthly grade level teams look at attendance data during staff meeting time by grade and devise additional strategies to support students

OUR RESULTS

- Students who are chronically absent has decreased the past two years.
- Higher scores on districtwide assessments from our students
- Decrease number of below grade level students