



Department of Opportunity Youth

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TO: School Committee
FROM: Brian Marques, Senior Director of Opportunity Youth
CC: Superintendent Mary Skipper
SUBJECT: Attendance Presentation
DATE: Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Reducing chronic absenteeism is essential to ensuring that every student in Boston Public Schools (BPS) is able to learn, grow, and thrive. As we continue to recover from the peak of the pandemic, our focus is on reestablishing the strength of our school communities, while developing a renewed sense of belonging across all BPS students and families. Through a variety of strategic initiatives, we are providing schools with the tools, resources, and support structures that model a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) as the conduit for improved attendance, engagement, and intervention practices.

Tonight's presentation will provide a comprehensive overview of district attendance data and improvement initiatives, particularly as it relates to evidence-based strategies to reduce chronic absenteeism.

Topic areas include -

- Defining chronic absenteeism and its importance as an early indicator of student engagement, as well as potential barriers to academic achievement
- A review of attendance data and trends, aggregated by student demographic groups
- School and district collaboration structures that use evidence to identify and respond to student needs
- Tangible tools and resources that provide schools with the necessary frameworks to improve attendance practices
- Future planning around the district's Regional Model, including increased capacity and greater cohesiveness across central office departments

Accompanying presentation slides, as well as the Equity Impact Statement, will be made available on the district's website at bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee.

