

**The following strategies were shared by participants at SDCOE's Annual Summit on Student Engagement and Attendance on September 10, 2015**

**Tier 1 (Missing less than 10% of School)**

- Phone calls home whenever a student misses school (preferably the teacher makes the call)
- Welcome signs visible as students enter the school
- Monthly newsletters made available electronically and through mail
- Every student receives a classroom presentation on attendance and identifies their personal attendance goal for the year
- Students are given information to track their own attendance
- K-1<sup>st</sup> grade students receive lesson from School Resource Officer (a puppet is used in the lesson for kinder grades)
- Target all K-1 students and provide incentives for perfect and improved attendance
- Parent conferences for all students include conversation about importance of attendance
- Rewards/incentives provided for students with perfect attendance (i.e. gift cards, bracelets, dog tags, etc.)
- Coffee/cocoa offered to parents as they drop their kids off
- Administrators and teachers provide high-fives to parents as they drop off their kids (this idea is taken from LAUSD)
- "Motivation Tunnel" offered to students as they enter the school in the morning (teachers and administrators line up at school's entrance and offer words of encouragement)
- *Breakfast in the Classroom* program is implemented to get kids off to the right start every morning
- Families are met at their comfort level (i.e. culturally, linguistically, etc.)
- Other parents are used to get the word out about attendance

**Tier 2 (At Risk of Missing 10-19% of Days)**

- SART teams meet regularly
- Home visits for those students who are identified as chronically absent or truant
- Power School/Synergy is used to collect data
- District has a T.O.S.A. (Teacher On Special Assignment) that assists with attendance
- Bus passes provided for students who have transportation issues contributing to attendance problems. Passes are also provided to homeless students.
- Alarm clocks are given to students to assist with waking up on time
- Daycare is offered onsite for parenting teens
- Daycare is offered to parents during SART meetings
- Siblings of the chronically absent/truant student are identified to provide proactive prevention services and support
- Counseling group offered to students if specific needs identified through SART process

- High school students serve as mentors to students who are struggling
- Parent education offered to parents of kids who have been identified as chronically absent or truant
- Work with family to identify needs as well as goals around attendance
- Refer to Family Resource Center if additional concerns arise

### **Tier 3 (At Risk of Missing 20% of Days)**

- Students are provided with social/emotional lesson from RippleEffects program (<http://rippleeffects.com/>). Self-directed computerized RTI meets each student's needs.
- Bus passes or gas cards provided to parents
- Follow-up with resources is provided to student and family
- Calls home are made at 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. If there is no answer, the Emergency Contact will be called.
- Awards for parents are provided as a "thank you" for helping their child improve their attendance
- Staff is made aware of students struggling with attendance- support is offered from teachers (academics, high-fives, etc.)
- SARB Board focuses on providing an encouraging atmosphere