

# San Diego County Improving Chronic Absence Network Cohort 5

*Ensure every student attends school today and achieves tomorrow.*

## Why Chronic Absence?

In 2023, nearly one out of every four students in San Diego County missed 18 school days or more every year. These 100,000 San Diego County students who are chronically absent are disproportionately students of color and students from vulnerable populations, such as foster youth, students experiencing homelessness, socioeconomically disadvantaged, and students with disabilities. Over four years from the start of the pandemic, these and far too many other students still struggle to attend school regularly and are at-risk of falling behind academically.

## What is ICAN?

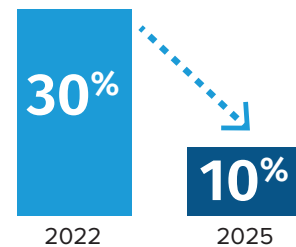
The San Diego County Improving Chronic Absence Network (ICAN) aims to address the enormous challenge of improving chronic school absence by helping schools implement small, targeted changes that are proven to get results.

## How Does ICAN Work?

ICAN creates a structure for collective learning and action that is built on evidence-based practices for improving student attendance and guided by the principles and tools of improvement science. School teams of three to five people commit to a yearlong program, designed to help them test and implement these practices at their schools. With the support of an improvement coach, teams engage in onboarding and system investigation activities in the spring and summer. Teams attend learning sessions to learn and collaborate with other schools. Teams then adapt and test out specific attendance strategies at their sites during action periods (AP). The network concludes with a final convening for the teams to celebrate, share learning, and develop plans to sustain these efforts.

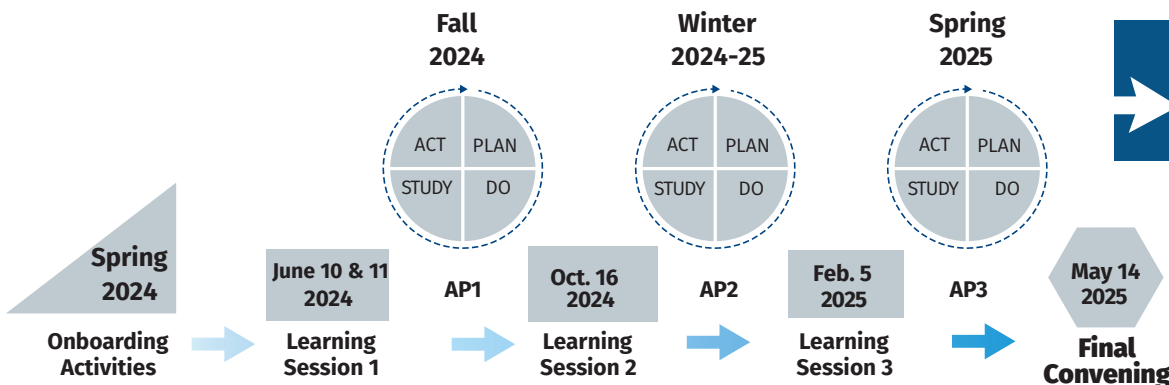
## Goal of ICAN

**Reduce countywide chronic absence rate from 30% to 10% by 2025**



## An Enormous Challenge

The K-12 school system continues to face elevated rates of student absences and disengagement. Yet one fact remains abundantly clear - attendance matters. When students miss too much school, their academic success and overall well-being is negatively impacted. Schools face huge challenges in their efforts to increase student attendance. Join ICAN to engage in collective action and learning to get real improvement.



**Get Started Today**  
[bit.ly/sdcoe-ican](https://bit.ly/sdcoe-ican)

