

LT Community Advisory Council Meeting
Wednesday, September 18, 2024 (6:00p - NC Room 251)

Question #1 - Reflect on the data and information that was just shared. What surprised you or was different from what you thought prior to this presentation?

- Seniors have the most absences; surprise and also doesn't surprise
- Proviso and oak park school absence numbers shocking being either so low or high and what different policies/data counts contribute to that
- Seeing a lot more kids late on late start days
- Didn't realize it was going to be that high at 20% of absenteeism
- A Lot more walkers because of the location of campuses
- Less sense of urgency
- Didn't know about doctor notes
- Parent accountability ie: going on long vacations"
- Hispanic students: what are the factors behind the absenteeism
- That our rates were so high, even for being on the lower end of rates.
- Attendance that happened during the pandemic vs post pandemic
- 1st period absences were so high, and it didn't change throughout the week, especially on late start days
- Amount of information collected on the students
- Like the amount of interventions, tag
- Interested in seeing what an attendance plan looks like
- Scanning the passes takes of time
- **Teachers set up a culture of aiming to come at 7:40 instead of 7:45**
- SA help move people along in the morning by moving clumps along
- Q2
- Habits and routine
- **Intrinsic (motivating yourself) verses extrinsic motivators**
- For those not coming
- Giving them connection
- After long period away it is harder to come back then stay, giving help to those returning
- Forming action plans with student
- Making connection
- Get rid of shame
- Lots of positive motivation
- Keep goals
- You made a commitment and you need to stick to it
- **Create culture of being punctual**
- Q3
- Social media has been very helpful
- Promotes clubs that make people want to come
- Newsletters help

- Emails to parents scare people to be on time
- **Where to monitor attendance? No one knows**
- **Should text quarterly about how many days missed to students and parents!**
- Not surprised from the data not decreasing as much from Covid because especially from sickness, students are afraid from the judgment that comes from other students when they cough or blow their nose too much in class
- More robust systems from retrieving information back from absences post covid
- Surprised from the data that in 20924, 39% or 1454 of the student population fell into the category of undersupported category
- Buses have not been a heavily effective form of transportation, because once they miss the bus, they're not coming to school
 - If you call within 30 min time frame saying I have missed the bu, so they get put on a list, so another round of transportation can come by and pick them up
- Firstview app for buses so kids could see where their bus is-PUBLICIZE IT
- We thought that the attendance rate would have gone back to what it was before the pandemic given that it has years after.
- Thought intervention program was interesting and works well.
- It was nice to have a comparison to schools in the district to see their attendance rates
- It can be important to see what other schools are doing to make sure students are at school. As here at LT we can implement those actions.
- What is the attendance/tardy rate on Wednesdays compared to every other day of the week. Does a later start have an impact on tardy and attendance rate.
- Keep up the intervention with students as a face to face interaction can improve attendance rate.
- A lot being done already
- Admin at door with tardy scan
- Staff interaction during tardy scan
- Sports and attendance requirements
- First view: bus tracking (make more aware)

Question #2 - When you think about attendance and on-time behaviors, what ideas do you have for motivating students to demonstrate positive attendance/on-time behaviors? What ideas do you have to deter poor attendance and/or tardiness?

- Positively and belonging-helps
- Focusing on freshmen-helps
- Punishment-helps(too easy to make up assignments)
- Acknowledge good attendance-helps
- Access to good resources-helps(makes big differences in all areas)

- The comparative data on the schools in our conference surprised our table. Especially the data on Proviso east & west
- We are proud to have some of the lowest rates amongst our conference
- The data on Hispanic absentee rates surprised us
- Common areas more spread out
- Incentivize getting to school early so that student talk and congregate then getting to class because students are here early
- Hot chocolate morning; free food bring people in earlier
- No sports games possibly more incitevising than detention
- Canvas preparing but also maybe incentivizing missing school because curriculum is all online like covid
- Addition of tardy scanner is good
- Connection with staff is appreciated
- Incentives to look forward too
 - Acknowledgements
 - Incentive for students rather for the parent
 - Free Complimentary Season Ticket
 - Not all or Nothing - Point based system
 - Attendance Breakfast / Lunch incentives
- More personal connections with students
 - With tardies, during the school day, SA's shouldn't assume things about students/ talk condescendingly but in a friendlier way, maybe a walk to class.
- More connections with teachers to engage students in school
- Athletic teams and/or clubs welcome students in at the start of the day
- Show statistics to family and students
- Increased focus on it
- Connections with parents that allows insight on issues before they get out of hand
- Healthy competition (motivation)
- Looking at in depth factors and giving resources
- Common ways that students miss school: sleeping in missing first couple periods, not feeling it, sick, stressed
- Health classes-mentioning strengthening attendance in schools and showing data, also mentioning the bus app
- Get parents involved
- It would be motivating for students to have attendance be a part of grades. (could be used when you have a borderline grade)
- School starting later could encourage the attendance rate.
- Incentives to look forward to going to school
- Common areas to encourage students to be able to socialize before school.
- Encourage students to get involved in extracurricular activities as they will have a motivation/reason to come to school

Question #3 - How can LTHS better communicate with and involve families and students in promoting good attendance habits?

- Personal phone calls
- Personal connection compared to emails and auto calls
- West 40
- Connecting to school community belonging
- If more chronically absent student were involved in clubs/sports there is more incentive for them to attend
 - Activities more engagement
 - Acknowledgement and incentives
 - Quarterly text about absences
 - Reinforcing why school is important
- Great email communication; subject lines depend if emails are all read
- Subject lines are important to make people read
- Weekly emails not always read
- Text messaging parents and students mean better response
- Home visits working well from vp perspective
- Parents might not know about students' tardiness
 - Friendlier more personal informing emails/calls
- Connect kid to school
 - Lack of belonging doesn't encourage students to attend school
- Being open with families and sharing data with them'
- Reach out to parents to reach out to community
- Parents should set a good example for attendance
- Automated email with student attendance
- CLARIFICATION on excused absences
- Easier to navigate online sources and let parents know (they get busy sometimes, and that's okay)
- Infinite campus does not give enough information
- Talk with parents before issues get out of hand
- Parents need to be at open houses, to understand how the school runs and how they can be involved
- Positives; they do a pretty good job communicating with parents and students, serving suspension in school now, summer programs meeting with students families with chronic absenteeism, recognizing good attendance
- Can Improve:
 - Open House, not enough parent involvement, decrease in parents getting updates on their kids
 - Some social media page for parents that highlights how they can enhance their student's attendance or attendance policies, good attendance on your transcript so that colleges can see it
- Early intervention is important to get involved to make sure the problem isn't recurring

- It's nice to know right away with notifications from infinite campus if students are late.
- Important to get parents involved as they would encourage students to go to school and stuff rather than a teacher.
- Another email about attendance might not be the most effective way to communicate the problem.
- Call parents to get involved early to make sure it isn't a recurring problem.
 - Related to attendance, a phone call home would be the most effective way to communicate with parents.
- If parents have to come and meet and talk about absence, parents will be more motivated to encourage kids to go to school and get to school on time
- Continuously meeting with the parents chronically absent students or students with many tardies will help parents in the home
- **Daily attendance announcements about days previous announcements (Competition for grade level) (Rewards) (North vs South)**
- Maybe the grade level or campus with the highest attendance will receive something in return (**incentivize**)
- We want to know what percentage of students are not in activities. (In reference to the new required four period a day to participate in after school activities)
- How can we get students to get more involved in activities so that they can be excited to come to school.
- How can we cater to those that may have to take jobs to contribute to household income
- How can we cater to those that may have to take care of siblings or loved ones?
- Will starting school later help solve attendance problems.
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