Battling Chronic Absenteeism:
A Collection of Success Stories
and Resources for Educators

July 19th, 2013
What is Chronic Absenteeism?

Missing 15 or more school days during the academic year
• This equates to 8.5% of the year

Who doesn’t count
• Pre-kindergarten students
• Students with medical emergencies
Chronic Absenteeism is Not Average Daily Attendance

Average daily attendance is useful, but schools with the same average daily attendance can have widely different chronic absenteeism rates.
Why does Chronic Absenteeism Matter?

• Chronic absenteeism is associated with lower student achievement and an increased risk of dropping out of school
• Chronic absenteeism serves as an early warning for students who are falling off track
• Chronic absenteeism is not just a problem for high schools, it can start as early as kindergarten
Attendance in early grades is crucial

Percent Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced on 3rd Grade ELA Based on Attendance in Kindergarten and in 1st Grade

- No attendance risks: 64%
- Small attendance risks: 43%
- Moderate attendance risks: 41%
- High attendance risks: 17%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance Risk</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No risk</td>
<td>Missed less than 5% of school in K &amp; 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small risk</td>
<td>Missed 5-9% of days in both K &amp; 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate risk</td>
<td>Missed 5-9% of days in 1 year &amp; 10% in 1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High risk</td>
<td>Missed 10% or more in K &amp; 1st</td>
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Source: Applied Survey Research & Attendance Works (April 2011)
Among poor children, chronic absence in kindergarten predicts lower levels of achievement at the end of 5th grade.

Chronic absenteeism is one of the strongest predictors of dropping out of high school.

These trends are also present in Hawaii
Why are students chronically absent?

**Lack of Awareness**
- Parents or students don’t realize absences are adding up to academic risk
- School lacks a strong culture of attendance

**Aversion**
- Child is struggling academically
- Lack of engaging instruction
- Child is being bullied

**Barriers**
- Lack of access to health care
- No safe path to school
- Poor transportation

Framework by Dr. Robert Balfanz, Everyone Graduates Center, JHU, Baltimore, MD
National Success Stories

• In Baltimore, the chronic absenteeism rate for middle grade students has declined drastically from 34% in 2007 to 16% in 2011
• New York City’s Chronic Absenteeism Task Force has lowered chronic absenteeism by 24% at participating schools
• Los Angeles schools participating in the Attendance Improvement Program saw chronic absence rates cut in half in kindergarten in one year
One of Many Local Success Stories

Principal Patricia Dang of Kapalama Elementary
- School sits in Kalihi in Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani complex area with about 600 students
- Fewer than 10% of Kapalama’s students were chronically absent in 2011 and 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010-11</th>
<th>2011-12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kapalama</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
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Question and Answer

Questions for Principal Dang?

What has or hasn’t worked in your schools?
The Best Resource

The Attendance link in the Operations tab of the LDS

Use this tab for your day-to-day operations, and keep an eye on your student's information.

Rules of the Operations tab:
+ You will see data for your currently enrolled, active, students in a school.
+ Data are updated every night, so there is a one-day delay.

Example:
Sam took the HSA two times at Queen Liliuokalani Elementary School, but left soon after the test. He is now enrolled at Some other Elementary School. Concurrently, Sam's information will then be a

Relative Use:
High. The Operations tab contains information that is updated daily, and is designed to provide
Another Good Resource

The “Student Search” feature of the Operations Tab in the LDS, which has a custom filter for attendance.