

Attendance Matters

Top Facts & Messaging to Know and Share

Children living in poverty are 2-3 times more likely to be chronically absent.

- These children are often from communities that lack the resources to assist with the lost learning

Chronically absent children from communities of color or with disabilities are more disproportionately affected.

Many barriers are often connected to children being chronically absent:

- Health problems (physical, dental, and mental)
- Accessible transportation or a safe route to school
- Childcare (before and after school, caring for siblings)
- Nutritional needs

Chronic absenteeism is often missed due to schools focusing on how many students came to school that day instead of looking at the attendance of each student individually.

Chronic absence not only impacts the absent child, but it impacts classroom dynamics.

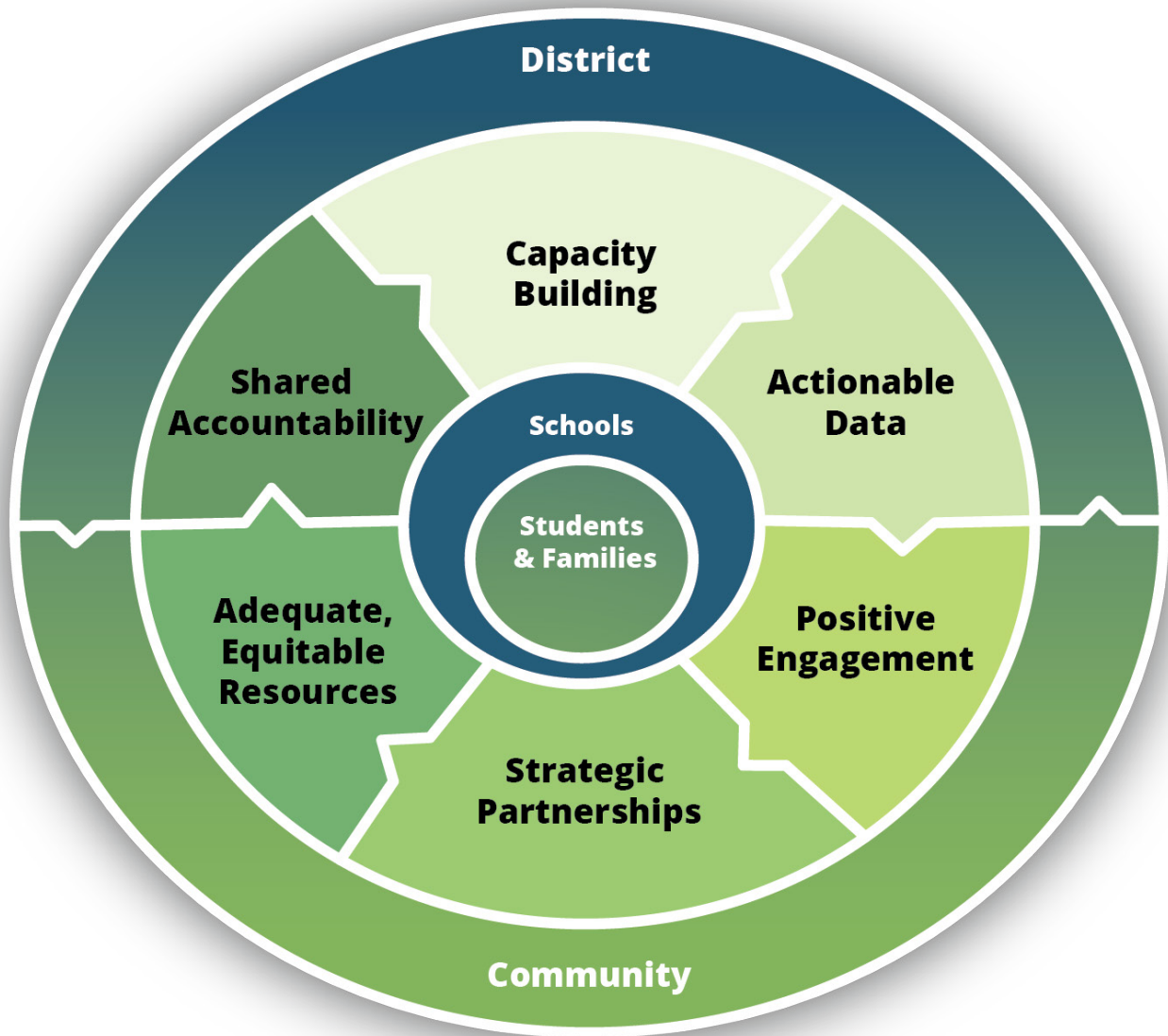
Key areas to monitor:

- Prior year chronic absence: Chronic absence in the prior year is more likely to already be behind when the next school year begins.
- Attendance definition consistency: it is important to define what a full day of attendance is to ensure consistency in data collection.
- Ensure contact data is up to date: Ask for this information multiple times throughout the year instead of just at the beginning of the year. This could be done at all events at the school throughout the year.
- Connectivity: Determine if there are students who do not have access to the internet or the equipment necessary to utilize it.
- Relationships matter: The relationship between students and the school community makes a difference in attendance. Getting students connected into the school through other students and the staff has been determined to be a significant factor in attendance.

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Key Ingredients for Systemic Change:



Note. Used with permission from Attendance Works.