

# HYPOTHESIS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET: Attendance

Use the following steps to develop an understanding of why this student is frequently absent and/or tardy. Consider data sources such as:

- Student and parent interviews
- Teacher reports
- Data showing patterns of absence/tardiness

## I. Describe extent of the student's absenteeism.

How many days has the student been absent? Excused \_\_\_\_\_ Unexcused \_\_\_\_\_

What days of the week/class period(s) is the student most likely to be absent?

How many days has the student been absent as a result of disciplinary measures?

## II. Describe the degree to which the issues below are factors in the student's absences.

### Academic

Describe the student's instructional needs. (e.g., needs instructional support in one or more academic skills)

Describe the skills and content the student has missed as a result of their absences.

Does the student feel bored, unchallenged, or disengaged from the subject?

Does the student have credit deficiencies? List courses needed to catch up.

How does the student feel about needing or asking for help?

### Safety

Does the student feel safe on the way to school? At school?

Have there been any reports of bullying?

### Transportation

How does the student get to school?

Is the transportation consistent? If not, what are the barriers? (e.g., money, time, distance, schedule)

### Social

Are there factors outside of school that make staying away more attractive to the student? (e.g., gets to hang out with friends, is pressured by peers, earns money, gets attention from an adult at home)

Does the student get to avoid difficult social situations by staying away from school? (e.g., bullying)

### Home

Do the student's parents/guardians recognize the importance of and support regular school attendance?

Do the student's parents/guardians have positive relationships with school staff?

Describe any obstacles in the home that contribute to frequent absences? (e.g., parental illness, conflicts, homelessness, substance abuse, child care)

Describe responsibilities the student has at home that interfere with attendance? (e.g., responsible for getting younger siblings to school, provide care for other member of the household)

### Health/Mental Health

Does the student have a health or mental health issue that affects attendance? Describe the condition and impact.

Is the student pregnant?

Does the student have a substance abuse problem?

Does the student require treatment that interferes with attendance?

### School Climate

Review Climate Walk data to identify components of school culture that contribute to absenteeism.

Identify adults at school with whom the student has a positive relationship.

## III. Describe strategies that have been implemented to improve this student's attendance.

Describe implemented strategies.

What has been most effective? Least effective?

## IV. Develop an attendance hypothesis.

Using the information you have collected, what are the most important reasons for the student's absences?