

REIMAGINING EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

FOCUS ON

Engaged Student Attendance
Insights from the Neubauer Fellowship



Student attendance is crucial for academic success, as students who miss school regularly are deprived of essential learning opportunities. Chronic absenteeism, defined as missing 10% or more of school days, has seen alarming increases, particularly in the wake of the pandemic. To combat this, educational leaders must prioritize attendance by setting clear, trackable goals, maintaining regular communication with families, incentivizing attendance, and fostering a welcoming school environment.

FOSTERING LEADERSHIP, ELEVATING ATTENDANCE

Successful leaders implemented proven strategies identified in and shared throughout the Fellowship:

- Identifying accessible, easily tracked attendance goals
- Communicating routinely to engage students and their families
- Gamifying attendance and incentivizing positive behavior
- Creating a welcoming, safe, culturally responsive learning environment so students want to attend school

GAMIFYING ATTENDANCE

John Moffet School Principal Rodney Johnson, 2022 Neubauer Fellow, employed this proven practice in his efforts to improve attendance. He and School Based Teacher Leader and Attendance Designee Elizabeth Gomez implemented a driving-themed attendance tracker on the wall of a main hallway at the school. The wall incorporated local roads and served as a visually appealing, instantly gratifying way to engage students in the effort.

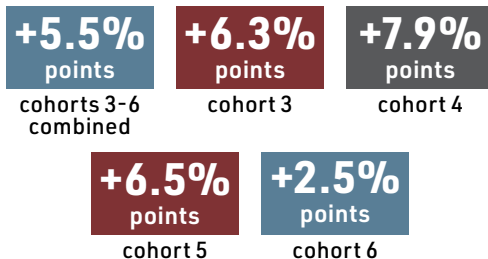
STUDENT SURVEY RESPONSES offer insights into factors that influence attendance

According to the data, student attendance is higher at schools where:

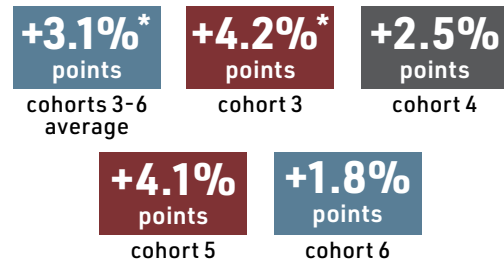
- Students report feeling welcome, that they belong, and that they enjoy school
- Teachers communicate high expectations and are encouraging
- Students feel safe across school premises
- Students feel their learning needs are met and their voices are heard.

ENHANCED STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & ATTENDANCE by the Numbers

Percentage difference of students attending 95% time or more in schools led by Neubauer Fellows



Estimated Effect of Principal Participation in the Neubauer Fellowship on Percentage of Students Attending 95% or More



* Indicates the difference was statistically significant at the .05 level. Note that the number of schools is greater than the number of Fellows because high school and K8 attendance is reported separately, and some schools include both grade spans.