Reducing Chronic Absence in Washoe County School District by Strengthening its Multi-Tiered System of Supports

Partnership needs and purpose

Attending school regularly is a key indicator of school success. During the pandemic, already high rates of chronic absence (13%) in Washoe County School District (WCSD) roughly tripled (37%) and disproportionately disrupted learning for some historically underserved student groups. To meet this urgent challenge, this partnership focuses on identifying and implementing evidence-based interventions for reducing chronic absence through WCSD's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework.

Inputs

- WCSD staff commitment to strengthening the district's MTSS framework to reduce chronic absence, knowledge of the causes and consequences of chronic absence, and skills using data to inform policy and tiered practices
- REL West staff content knowledge in MTSS, strategies to reduce chronic absence, and expertise in TCTS, applied research, and dissemination

Partnership activities

Inventory of Data Sources and Interventions Related to Chronic Absence

Analysis of Data on the Severely Chronically Absent Students Referred to the Student Attendance Review Board (SARB)

Training to Select **Evidence-Based Practices to** Reduce Chronic Absence

Assess the Effectiveness of Check In/Check Out in Elementary/Middle Schools Among Chronically Absent Students

Study of a TBD Tier 2 Intervention

Coaching to Apply the Findings from Research Studies to the Selection and Implementation of Evidence-**Based Absence Interventions**

Infographic of MTSS Practices and Evidence-Based Strategies to Reduce Chronic Absence

Infographic of Findings from the SARB Data Analysis

Infographic of Findings from an Effectiveness Study of Check In/Check Out

Infographic of Findings from a Study of TBD Tier 2 Intervention

Partnership outputs

A review of district attendance policies, practices, interventions, and data sources related to chronic absence

Knowledge from

training, coaching, and

research studies inform

findings from applied

the selection of Tier

2 interventions and

chronic absence

strategies for reducing

Short term outcomes

Build district and school staff capacity to use data and evidence about chronic absence interventions within the district's MTSS framework

evidence-based Tier 2 interventions to reduce chronic absence

Infographics on MTSS practices and evidencebased interventions to reduce chronic absence

Build district staff capacity to use research to guide and support schools in selecting

Build partners' capacity to increase school staff understanding of

and support for using MTSS practices and evidence-based absence reduction interventions

Medium term outcomes

District and school staff implement multi-tiered, evidence-based practices to reduce chronic absence districtwide, by grade-level bands, and for targeted student groups with higher-thandistrict average rates of absence

District and school staff implement evidence-based Tier 2 interventions to reduce chronic absence in elementary and middle schools

District and school staff expand the implementation of multi-tiered, evidencebased interventions to reduce chronic absence across the district

Long-term outcomes

Decrease chronic absence rates for targeted student groups (Latinx, American Indian, and homeless)

Decrease chronic absence rates at the elementary school level

Decrease chronic absence rates at the middle school level

Decrease chronic absence rates districtwide



REL West Regional Educational Laboratory West