TeachME Professional Development

Breaking the Cycle of Chronic Absenteeism

1. Which of the following is NOT an accurate statement about chronic absenteeism and truancy?

A. Truancy generally refers to unexcused absences and is often associated with violations of compulsory attendance laws, typically focusing on the number of absences that occur without a valid excuse.
B. Chronic absenteeism includes all absences regardless of cause, including excused absences, unexcused absences, suspensions, illness, family emergencies, or transportation difficulties.
C. While chronic absenteeism focuses primarily on compliance, truancy focuses on the loss of instructional time and the underlying factors contributing to missed school days.
D. Assessing chronic absenteeism helps provide stakeholders with a comprehensive measure of student engagement and access to meaningful learning opportunities.

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2. Which outcome is most strongly associated with chronic absenteeism in the early elementary grades?

A. Increased participation in extracurricular activities
B. Higher rates of reading proficiency by third grade
C. Improved social relationships with peers
D. Lower reading and mathematics achievement

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3. Which factor is considered a significant contributor to chronic absenteeism among students?

A. Limited participation in extracurricular programs
B. Difficulty adjusting to changes in academic expectations
C. Mental health concerns such as anxiety and depression
D. Placement in advanced or accelerated classes

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4. Research suggests that widespread chronic absenteeism can negatively affect communities by:

A. Increasing workforce readiness and economic growth
B. Improving civic engagement among young adults
C. Weakening educational attainment and economic vitality
D. Decreasing access to community resources

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5. Why might exclusionary discipline practices contribute to chronic absenteeism?

A. They increase student engagement with school.
B. They provide make-up instructional time and intervention

C. They may lead to disengagement and missed learning
D. They improve relationships between students and staff.

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6. Which statement best defines chronic absenteeism?

A. Missing 10 or more consecutive days of school
B. Missing at least 10% of enrolled school days for any reason
C. Missing 10% or more of enrolled school days due to unexcused absences
D. Missing school without a doctor's note

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7. Why is chronic absenteeism considered an educational equity issue?

A. It affects all student groups equally.
B. It primarily impacts students who are already academically successful.
C. It occurs only in schools with high poverty rates.
D. It disproportionately affects students who already face educational barriers.

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8. A student regularly misses school to care for younger siblings while a parent works. This example best illustrates which contributor to absenteeism?

A. Family responsibilities
B. Peer influence
C. Negative school climate
D. Community health trends

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9. Which statement best describes the impact of chronic absenteeism on schools?

A. It reduces the need for instructional interventions.
B. It decreases demands on educators and support staff.
C. It increases the need for re-teaching and intervention.
D. It has little influence on school climate or academic outcomes.

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10. A high school organizes freshmen into small learning communities and has teachers meet weekly to discuss how to strengthen relationships with students. Which approach is being used?

A. Safe Passage
B. Building Assets, Reducing Risks (BARR)
C. Restorative Check-In System
D. Walking School Bus

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11. A school moves breakfast into classrooms so that students can eat with their classmates and teachers each morning. What is one intended benefit of this strategy?

A. Reducing transportation costs

B. Eliminating the need for school nurses
C. Increasing opportunities for connection
D. Replacing other attendance interventions

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12. A middle school student has been chronically absent for two years. Which consequence becomes increasingly likely as the student progresses through school?

A. Difficulty keeping a close group of friends
B. Increased risk of course failure and eventual dropout
C. Greater reliance on independent learning strategies
D. More frequent participation in extracurricular activities

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13. During a conflict, students participate in a peer-mediated discussion to repair relationships and discuss the impact of their actions rather than receiving suspensions. This approach is an example of:

A. Restorative discipline practices
B. Exclusionary discipline
C. Tier 3 case management
D. Attendance monitoring

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14. Which logistical barrier is particularly influential in contributing to chronic absenteeism?

A. Routes with bad traffic
B. Inconsistent grading practices
C. Access to technology devices
D. Limited transportation options

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15. How can chronic absenteeism affect families?

A. It often increases the risk of health conditions for family members.
B. It guarantees additional educational services.
C. It often increases stress related to transportation concerns.
D. It reduces the need for family involvement in education.

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16. A district hires adults to monitor designated walking routes and provide supervision before and after school. This program is best described as:

A. Success Mentoring
B. Breakfast After the Bell
C. Community Schools
D. Safe Passage

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17. A high school creates small advisory groups so that all students have a staff member who knows them well and monitors their progress. This strategy is primarily intended to:

A. Strengthen relationships and improve school engagement.
B. Increase the use of disciplinary referrals and use restorative practices
C. Replace attendance monitoring systems and early intervention
D. Reduce the number of academic interventions

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18. Which of the following is considered a social-emotional consequence of chronic absenteeism?

A. Stronger peer relationships
B. Lower levels of school engagement and belonging
C. Increased levels of anxiety and depression
D. Improved communication with teachers

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19. Which statement best describes the purpose of a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) framework for attendance?

A. To apply the same intervention to all students with attendance concerns
B. To increase consequences for students with chronic absenteeism
C. To focus only on students with severe attendance problems
D. To provide different levels of support based on student needs

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20. Which long-term outcome has been associated with persistent absenteeism during high school?

A. Greater resistance to postsecondary education
B. Reduced college enrollment and career readiness
C. Increased participation in civic organizations
D. Higher rates of workforce preparation

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