



**Department of  
Education &  
Workforce**

# OEDPN – Supporting Attendance

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Office of Whole Child Supports  
Department of Education and Workforce

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# Who's Here Today?

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# Why Focus on Attendance Data?

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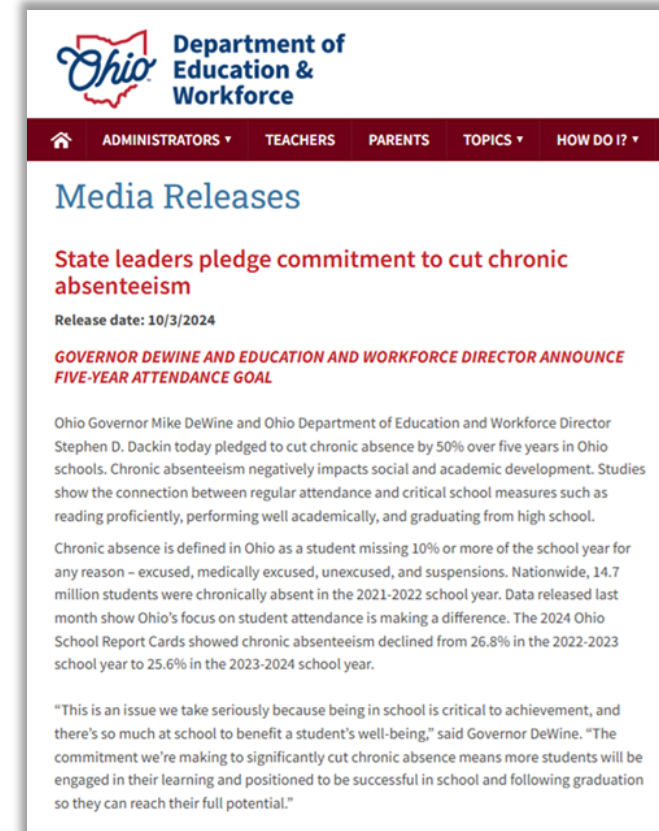
Students who were never chronically absent were 3x more likely to be proficient in ELA.

Students who were never chronically absent were 3.9x more likely to be proficient in Math.

# 50% Reduction Challenge

Public pledge in October 2024 organized by SITG! leadership committee and partners

“Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Director Stephen D. Dackin today pledged to cut chronic absence by 50% over five years in Ohio schools.”



The screenshot shows the official website of the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce. The header includes the state logo and navigation links for Administrators, Teachers, Parents, Topics, and How Do I?. The main content area is titled 'Media Releases' and features a news item about a commitment to reduce chronic absenteeism. The news item includes a release date of 10/3/2024 and a bold headline. The body text provides context on the issue of chronic absenteeism in Ohio and mentions a decline in rates from 2022-2023 to 2023-2024. A quote from Governor DeWine is also included at the bottom of the article.

**Ohio Department of Education & Workforce**

**Media Releases**

**State leaders pledge commitment to cut chronic absenteeism**

Release date: 10/3/2024

**GOVERNOR DEWINE AND EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCE FIVE-YEAR ATTENDANCE GOAL**

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Director Stephen D. Dackin today pledged to cut chronic absence by 50% over five years in Ohio schools. Chronic absenteeism negatively impacts social and academic development. Studies show the connection between regular attendance and critical school measures such as reading proficiently, performing well academically, and graduating from high school.

Chronic absence is defined in Ohio as a student missing 10% or more of the school year for any reason – excused, medically excused, unexcused, and suspensions. Nationwide, 14.7 million students were chronically absent in the 2021-2022 school year. Data released last month show Ohio's focus on student attendance is making a difference. The 2024 Ohio School Report Cards showed chronic absenteeism declined from 26.8% in the 2022-2023 school year to 25.6% in the 2023-2024 school year.

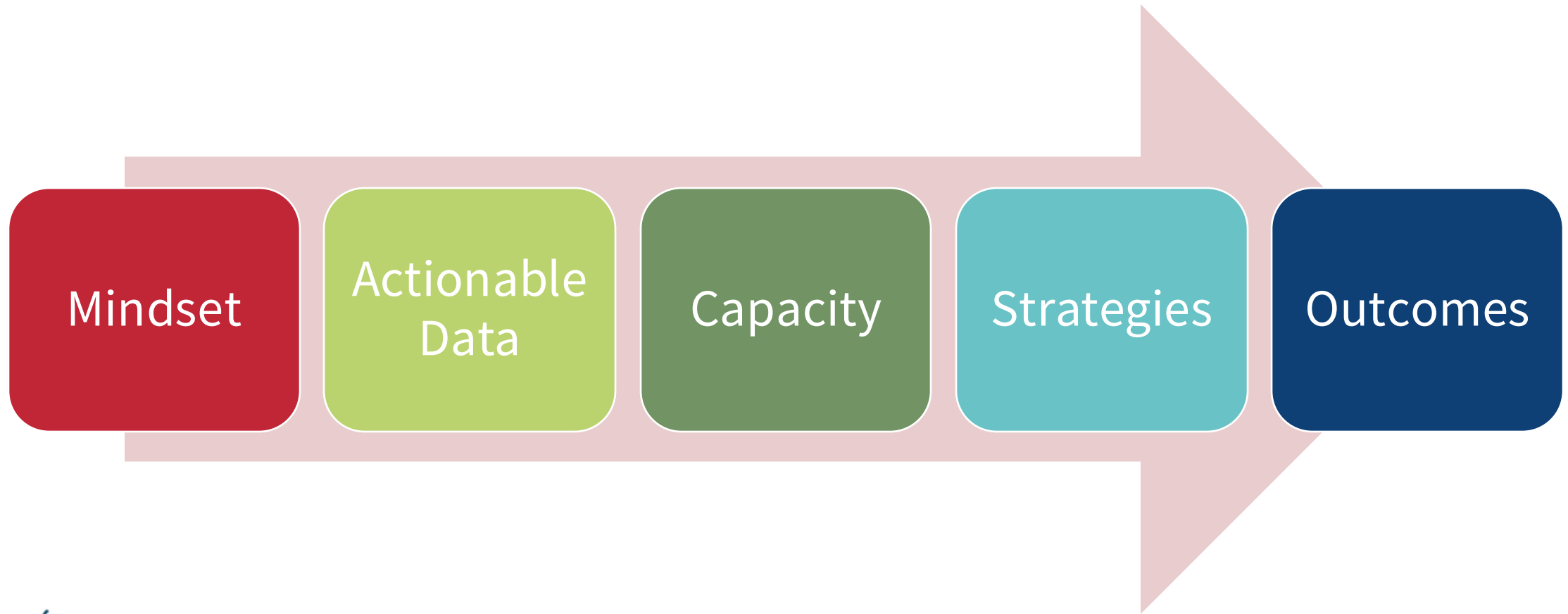
“This is an issue we take seriously because being in school is critical to achievement, and there's so much at school to benefit a student's well-being,” said Governor DeWine. “The commitment we're making to significantly cut chronic absence means more students will be engaged in their learning and positioned to be successful in school and following graduation so they can reach their full potential.”



# Mindset

# Pathway For Change

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# Local Attendance Policies

District flexibility

Tier 1 Communication

How can families communicate  
a student absence?

Definition of medically excused  
absence

Attendance coding

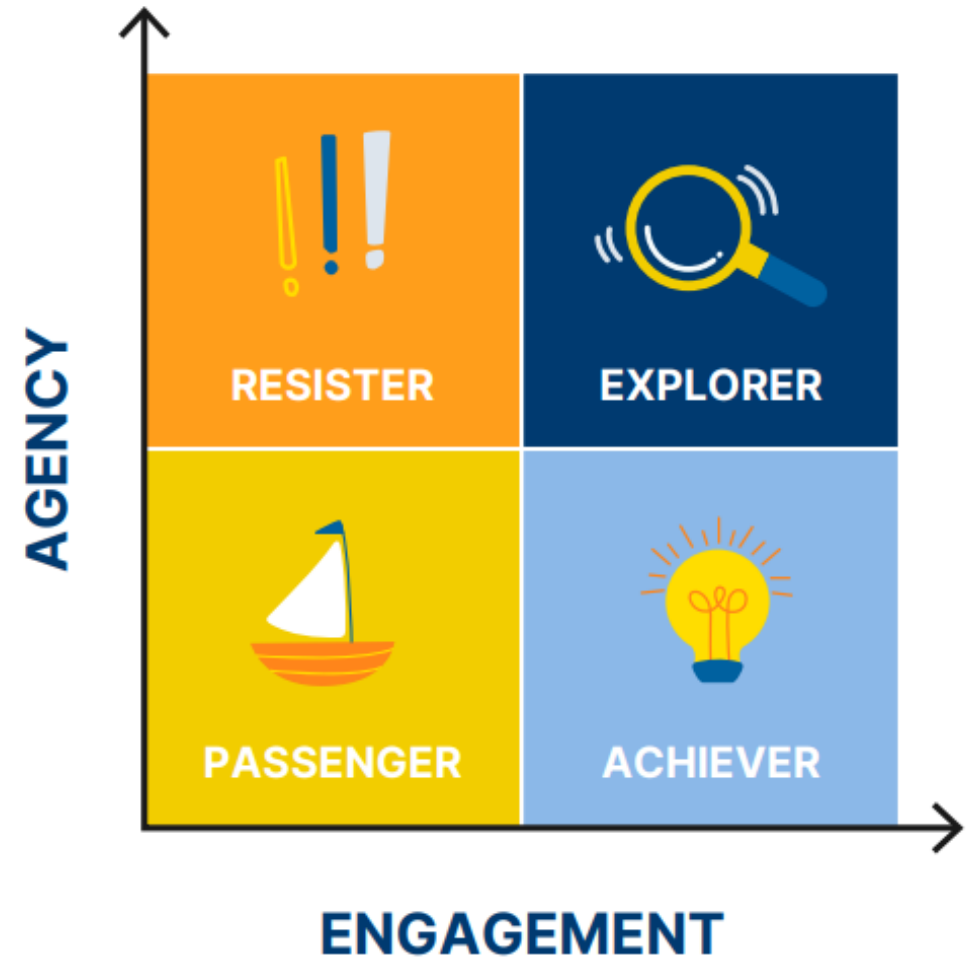


# Resource Exploration

# Attendance Is Engagement

## The Four Modes of Engagement

- See more:
  - [The Disengagement Gap](#), 2025
  - *The Disengaged Teen* by Jenny Anderson and Rebecca Winthrop



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# Professional Development

Ohio Department of Education & Workforce

## Teaching Attendance Curriculum for School Leaders

Developed in partnership with Attendance Works



# Attendance Calendar

## Spring (March-April)

- ☐ Identify students with moderate chronic absence and conduct relationship-building home visits
- ☐ Analyze attendance trends to identify days with historically high absenteeism (e.g. April when the weather gets warm)
- ☐ Use data to identify students with moderate chronic absence for small group interventions.
- ☐ Implement a schoolwide approach to address the “Spring Slump” that affects all staff and students.
- ☐ Create school competitions to boost spring attendance (e.g. March Madness competitions).
- ☐ Send letters to families about the importance of returning to school after spring break.
- ☐ Ensure family attendance letters are friendly and easy to understand.
- ☐ Facilitate case management meetings with community partners for students needing more individualized supports.

# Attendance Tools

- [Attendance Support Page](#)
- [Stay in the Game! Attendance Network](#)
- [Attendance Works Health Handouts](#)
- [Attendance Webinars](#)



# Discussion

# Discussion



Bright Spots or Promising Practices



Challenges



Next Steps

# QUESTIONS?

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EDUCATION.OHIO.GOV

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