



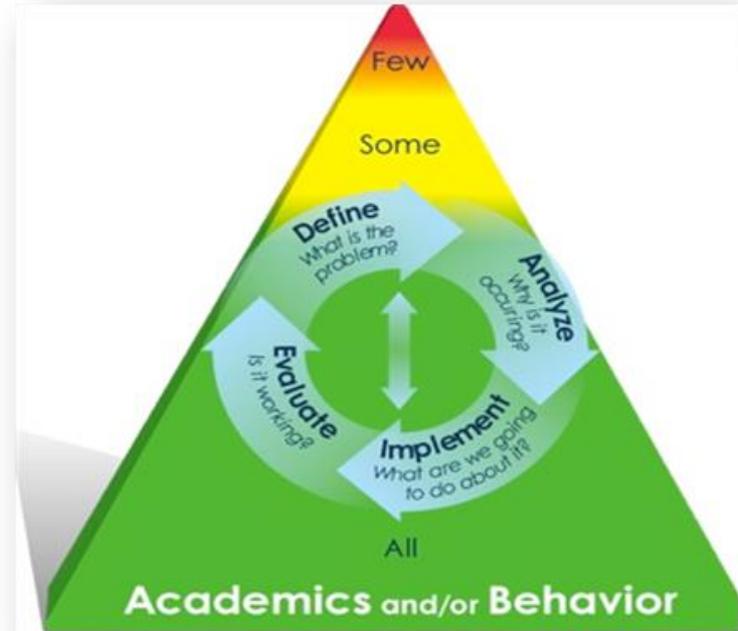
Hillsborough County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Best Practices for Locating and Engaging
Non-Enrolled Students and Families**

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Problem Solving Foundation



Lessons Learned from Spring 2020

- Over COMMUNICATION is good
- CONNECTION first, learning next
- EVERY staff member has a role
- RELATIONSHIP and Reciprocal Partnership are key
- LISTENING to family needs and making accommodations
- School and community CULTURE is important

Starting with the Data

- 2020-2021 Attendance Data – Who was chronically absent or truant?
- Summer school enrollment – Who did not attend?
- Homeless student data – Who was at greatest risk?
- Did Not Enroll (DNE) data – Who did not attend on day one?
 - Brick and Mortar
 - eLearning
 - Hillsborough Virtual
 - Florida Virtual School
 - Home School

Strategies for Locating Students

- Contacted parents/guardians through all documented phone numbers, emails, U.S. mail, and online platforms
- Searched for additional contact information by matching siblings, parent/guardians, and emergency contacts
- Conducted home visits at the address on record
- Contacted known service providers connected to student and family

Strategies for Locating Students

- Conducted community visits to hotels, campgrounds, apartment complexes, mobile home parks, and housing communities
- Canvassed the community and distributed a parent flyer which included the enrollment hotline contact information to local businesses, community agencies, hotels, apartment complexes, churches, and other community partners
- Requested a “well child check” through local law enforcement for students who may have been in imminent danger
- Collaborated with Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office to determine if there was an open case with Child Protective Services

All Stakeholders Share Responsibility

- ALL district and school personnel had a role
- Special Teams within HCPS focused on vulnerable populations
 - District Homeless Liaison and Team engaged local shelters and Continuum of Care
 - Foster Care Liaison and Team collaborated with Circuit 13 Child Welfare System of Care including Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and Eckerd Community Alternatives
- Collaboration with community partners to locate and connect families directly to agencies for financial/housing assistance, technology resources, and mental health supports was instrumental
 - Hillsborough County Government
 - Children's Board of Hillsborough County
 - Central Florida Behavioral Health Network

Principles of Engagement

- Principle 1: Maximize access and inclusion
- Principle 2: Utilization of evidence-based practice to be effective in improving outcomes
- Principle 3: Person-centered and family sensitive practice
- Principle 4: Partnerships with families and communities
- Principle 5: Cultural humility

Attendance Policies and Procedures

Intensive
School &
Community
Interventions

TIER

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Students With 10+ Absences & Disengaged Students

- Continue implementing Tier I Attendance Strategies
- Provide **intensive** case management coordination through social work referral and Attendance Remedation Plan - Referral to Unified Family Court or Case Staffing
- Engage Community Partners to assist in locating disengaged students
 - *Public Housing Authorities, Local Apartment Complexes, Hotels*
 - *Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department*
 - *The Department of Children and Families*

Targeted School
Interventions with
External/Community
Support

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Students With 5+ Absences

- Continue implementing Tier I Attendance Strategies
- Early outreach strategies to support schools in locating and engaging students and families. Outreach To Connect: Home Visits, Calls, Student Mentoring
- Coordination with Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Committee and referral to Child Study Team (CST) to implement targeted interventions
 - Engaging support from community resources and partners

School-wide
Programming for
Attendance Support

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Students With 5 Absences

- Implementation of Universal Whole School Attendance Plan
- *Personal Calls Home • Home Visits • Parent Conferences • Referrals for Services • Monthly Student Celebrations • Attendance Committee Meetings • Meetings With Family To Develop Support Plans*
 - *Establish Incentives with Focus on School Climate*

Questions

