

Hawks Report
La Center Middle School
January 2016

Attendance Works: Our FCRC Coordinator Aften Pankiewicz-Waldram shared with the middle school staff one recent Wednesday morning, about the importance of student attendance related to academic achievement, and also shared the data she has gathered for middle school student attendance, as well as best practices we can follow to positively impact student attendance.

Attendance Works is a national and state initiative working to improve the policy and practice around attendance, and is a great resource for learning about the impact of poor attendance. For example,

- nationwide 10-15% of students miss more than one month of school each year;
- chronic absenteeism in 6th grade is one of three main predictors of the likelihood a student will drop out of high school;
- poor attendance is a problem across income levels, but most significantly impacts low socio-economic levels.

From Aften's data on LCMS we learned the following:

- 68% of LCMS students (251) are on track to have "Regular Attendance", meaning they will miss at most 5% (9 days) for this school year;
- 18% of LCMS students (66) are on track to have "At Risk Attendance", meaning they will miss 6-9% (10-17 days) for this school year;
- 11% of LCMS students (42) are on track to have "Moderate Chronic Absenteeism", meaning they will miss 10-19% (18-35 days) for this school year;
- 3% of LCMS students (12) are on track to have "Severe Chronic Absenteeism", meaning they will miss at least 20% (36 days or more) for this school year

Some of the best practices we can follow as a staff are to be part of a comprehensive approach that includes outreach to families with more significant challenges to attendance. There are many incentives that teachers and administrators can offer to make a positive impact on student attendance, and our staff agreed that for the next month we would focus on the list of 42 students that are moderate chronic absent and try individual incentives with the students within our homeroom that are on that list. Aften is working with the 12 students and their families that are severe chronic absent. Next month we will come together again as a staff and look at strategies building wide that we want to implement for attendance improvement.