

Comments Generated at the PAC Meeting

English learners

No specific comments for this subgroup were provided by PAC

Foster Youth

1. More counselors available for foster and homeless youth and families helping with guidance and support on the importance of attendance.

Free and Reduced Meal Program

No specific comments for this subgroup were provided by PAC

General Comments

1. "Norming" LAUSD Pupil Service and Attendance counselors throughout the District, rather than leaving it up to principals to "purchase" the position.
 - Offer at least ½ day PSA Counselor at all schools
 - Focus on PSA's for transitional grades
 - Schools participating in categorical funding and subject to audit, especially should have PSA's
 - Offer options for making this possible given budget constraints.
 2. Since there is data that shows student attendance is correlated to teacher attendance, this data must be evaluated and made available at school sites.
 - Look for individual school site and evaluate this data re: absenteeism
 - Look at what "model" schools are doing well – Best practices should be shared
 - Offer intervention for chronically absent teachers
 3. Education Board should recommend to Local Districts and principals to purchase PSWs to address bullying, family loss, school refusal, and mental health issues that all affect absenteeism.
 4. Recommend a central event that recognizes students and parents for 100% attendance districtwide
 - Board recognition once a year
 - A separate recognition for improved attendance
 5. Board should work with Metro to increase bus lines during peak hours
 - Provide flexibility to students who take public transportation.
 6. Workshops for parents and students targeting transitional grades, ETK, TK, 9th specifically. Attendance career counselors for both grades
- . LAUSD funded incentives for students and schools that meet or exceed LCAP goals. (Not a principal's discretion) Trophies/certificates

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7. LAUSD norm created for designated PSA at every school. ie. for every 200 students PSA one time a week for example
8. Motivation in the form of school celebrations: free dress days, potlucks, etc., pizza party.
9. Remove ETK/TK attendance from the data calculations, and focus on students of required attendance age (6)
10. Return ETK/TK to a shorter day (4hrs)
11. Create a committee to lobby the State of CA to change its funding formula and not withhold money to schools for excused absences (medical etc.)
12. Inform parents of “Independent Study” options in the event of necessary extended absence (family emergency, illness etc)
13. Create attendance incentives such as science, technology, & art labs so the district can meet 100% attendance, and include teacher attendance as part of those incentives.
14. Require summer school or equivalent of students with Below Basic & Chronic absenteeism, to recover/recuperate days missed, with special accommodation & lessons/inclusion of Foster Youth, special needs, English Speaky, ELAC.
15. With Armenian population as second largest in LAUSD, advocate for formal holiday or discretionary time_off/day off in honor of Armenian Genocide so the student absences do no count toward total days missed. Even tho this day is an “excused “absence, schools will/can lose money from the state.
16. Establish required workshops for parents about attendance and consequences for not attending school from kindergarten to 12th grade.
17. The principal should monitor teacher’s behavior towards students in the classroom.
18. The schools should create a monitoring and intervention system for students with chronic absenteeism (illnesses) and based on their needs offer them the necessary support to work from home.
19. Provide students with chronic absenteeism, mental and emotional evaluations to identify the problem and offer the necessary support.
20. Create programs that motivate students to remain in class and that way avoid absenteeism.
21. Required course for all students about the importance of attendance and the consequences to students beyond basic and below basic.

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22. PSA counselors MUST be norm-based and provided to every school site. Forcing School Site Councils to purchase this position using funds that are extremely limited, when other critically important support staff is also needed, places a burden on schools which is unfair, inequitable, and just plain wrong. Instead of telling us yet again that the District does not have the funding to do this, FIND THE MONEY!
23. Absences for students with special needs must be differentiated, ie., excused vs. unexcused, so they will not be penalized for absences which are due to their disabilities.
24. Special Ed. students must be recognized for their efforts to attend school in spite of their disabilities.
25. Roll should be taken late in the day or period, to allow for students arriving late to be marked as present.
26. Attendance data presented to the PAC must be more thoroughly disaggregated, to include, eg., gender and ethnicity. Also, data related to enrollment must show actual student numbers along with the existing data showing enrollment percentages.
27. The PAC needs to review outcome data from the “case management system” developed last year to monitor and track services provided to Targeted Student Populations. (see response to comment # 23, 2017)
28. We should have a Norm budget PSA Counselor in the following proportions: ES - 1 day or 100 students, MS – 1 day for every 300 students, HS – 1 day for every 500 students
29. We recommend that the Attendance Improvement Program is expanded to all elementary schools to focus education and training for parents about attendance processes and goals.
30. Chronic absenteeism exists among the teachers in school districts and is creating poor role modeling for our students. We recommend that the CAC School Dashboard and LAUSD Attendance Matters program include the Teacher Attendance data from Risk Management Division.
31. We recommend that LAUSD communicate with METRO to facilitate students who take public transportation getting to school on time with methods such as student-only busses or routes that coordinate with school locations and times.
32. All chronic absenteeism data needs to include specific reasons why targeted student groups are absent (ex. African-American females and males, Latino females and males, foster youth, etc.)
33. We recommend that attendance is taken after Breakfast but before instruction begins.

Special Education

1. Special Ed. students must be recognized for their efforts to attend school in spite of their disabilities.

LCAP Goal: 100% Attendance

April 22, 2018

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