

# Every Student, Every Day:

*A National Initiative to Address and Eliminate Chronic Absenteeism*

## *Community Action Guide to Eliminate Chronic Absenteeism for* **YOUTH**

### **Why Chronic Absenteeism Matters for Youth**

As a young person, you are in a unique position to help your friends, classmates, and family understand a simple but important fact: *every day absent from school matters*. Even though it may seem okay to miss a day of school every once in a while, these absences can add up and can take a toll on your future success. Missing too many days of school can make it hard for you to stay on track in your classes, which could put your high school graduation at risk. You may also miss out on all of the exciting opportunities to learn and pursue your interests that you might only be able to get at school.

### **Did You Know?**

- Chronic absenteeism means missing 10% or more of school days in a year.
- 5 to 7.5 million students are chronically absent each year.
- Students who are chronically absent are less likely to succeed academically and more likely to drop out of school.
- Attending school every day increases your chances of success in school and in life.

The good news is that it is possible to change things for the better and have the greatest chance of success. Even if you are not chronically absent from school, as a young person, you have the power to take action and help eliminate chronic absenteeism in your community. You can help your friends, classmates, and family become informed and motivated to do something about it.

### **Did You Know?**

A student is chronically absent if he or she misses as few as **two days** of school a month.

**2 DAYS PER MONTH x 9 MONTHS = CHRONIC ABSENCE**

## ***Take Action to Help Eliminate Chronic Absenteeism***

You Should:

1. Help your friends and classmates understand what *chronic absenteeism* is— missing more than 10 percent (18 days) of school days in a year.
2. Attend school every day, encourage your friends to attend school every day and remind them that every absence from school matters.
3. Talk with your school principal and teachers about the kind of support that you and/or students in your school need to attend and be successful at school every day.
4. Be active in your community to support projects to help eliminate chronic absenteeism and support other young people in schools.

### **Resources to Support Youth to Address and Eliminate Chronic Absenteeism**

- Brought to you by USA.gov, **Kids.gov** is the official kids' portal for the U.S. government. We link kids, parents and teachers to U.S. government information and services on the web from government agencies, schools, and educational organizations, all geared to the learning level and interest of kids. See more at: [www.kids.usa.gov/index.shtml](http://www.kids.usa.gov/index.shtml).

- Learn more about President Obama's **My Brother's Keeper Initiative**, which works to provide supports to students who are at risk of falling off-track and not being successful in school so that they think more broadly about their future. See more at: [www.whitehouse.gov/my-brothers-keeper](http://www.whitehouse.gov/my-brothers-keeper)

- **Youth.gov**. Learn more about the strategies, tools, and resources for youth, families, schools, youth-serving organizations, and community partnerships related to a variety of cross-cutting topics that affect youth. See more at: <http://youth.gov> and <http://engage.youth.gov/>.

- **StopBullying.gov** provides information from various government agencies on what bullying is, what cyberbullying is, who is at risk, and how you can prevent and respond to bullying. See more at: [www.StopBullying.gov](http://www.StopBullying.gov).

- **Resources for Homeless Youth**: This page is a one-stop spot for helping youth find housing. This page lists all HUD homeless programs and initiatives that can be used by youth and youth serving providers to help prevent and end youth homelessness, as well as resources, publications, and relevant links to other agencies and organizations. Additionally, this page provides an explanation of how HUD programs currently serve homeless youth and how HUD works together with other agencies to combat homelessness. See more at: [www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/resources-for-homeless-youth/](http://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/resources-for-homeless-youth/)

- For more information on **preventing youth violence**, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Violence Prevention for more information and resources to support youth violence prevention activities in your community. See more at: <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/index.html>