



**PARENT-TEACHER ADVISORY/BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS BOARD COMMITTEE
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 204
Room 103-104
100 South Brainard Avenue
La Grange, Illinois 60525
Tuesday, November 12, 2024 - 7:00 AM**

AGENDA

I. WELCOME

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. Review of Attendance Feedback from PTABIC and LTCAC
- B. Presentation of Attendance Communication/Intervention Continuum
- C. Discussion of Update to Attendance Communication for Second Semester

2

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

V. ADJOURNMENT

BY ORDER OF
JILL GRECH
LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 204
100 SOUTH BRAINARD AVENUE
LA GRANGE, IL 60525

There will be parking available on the 100 and 200 blocks of Blackstone and Sunset Avenues for this meeting.

PTABIC Feedback (9 | 10 | 24)

Questions:

- What language do we use with families when we contact them if their student is not called in for the day?
- How do we consistently communicate with families the importance of communicating the reason a student is absent?
- Unexcused - can make up work BUT what happens at the end of the semester for unexcused vs. excused absences?
- How do staff interpret - unexcused vs. medical - is it important to 'paint the picture' of why a student is absent?
- What time is the office calling parents?
- How long until that is entered into Infinite Campus?
- Why the 7 excused absences? Why confuse families?
- On the website under make up work for excused/unexcused, it says "students will have 2 days for every one day of excused absence to make up missed work" Is this timeline different for unexcused? Language is a bit confusing if both excused and unexcused are allowed to make up work.

Goals:

- Improve communication systems to the community regarding attendance and discuss incentive systems.
- Continue to build a culture of belonging
- Build small communities within our school

LTCAC Feedback (9 | 18 | 24)

Consensus Question 1: Reflect on the data and information that was just shared. What surprised you, or was different, from what you thought prior to this presentation?

- High rate of absenteeism (20+%)
- Seniors have the most absences
- The interventions that are currently in place
- Hispanic student absenteeism rates high - what are the factors behind that?
- District has made a commitment to improve attendance - need to stick with it
- Where should students/families monitor attendance?
- How does transportation (buses) impact student attendance/tardies?

- Comparisons with other school districts helpful - what interventions do they have in place?

Consensus Question 2: When you think about attendance and on-time behaviors, what ideas do you have for motivating students to demonstrate positive attendance/on-time behaviors? What ideas do you have to deter poor attendance and/or tardiness?

- Positively and belonging-helps
- Focusing on freshmen-helps
- Punishment-helps(too easy to make up assignments)
- Acknowledge good attendance-helps
- Access to good resources-helps(makes big differences in all areas)
- The comparative data on the schools in our conference surprised our table. Especially the data on Proviso east & west
- We are proud to have some of the lowest rates amongst our conference
- The data on Hispanic absentee rates surprised us
- Common areas more spread out
- Incentivize getting to school early so that student talk and congregate then getting to class because students are here early
- Hot chocolate morning; free food bring people in earlier
- No sports games possibly more incitevising than detention
- Canvas preparing but also maybe incentivizing missing school because curriculum is all online like covid
- Addition of tardy scanner is good
- Connection with staff is appreciated
- Incentives to look forward too
 - Acknowledgements
 - Incentive for students rather for the parent
 - Free Complimentary Season Ticket
 - Not all or Nothing - Point based system
 - Attendance Breakfast / Lunch incentives
- More personal connections with students
 - With tardies, during the school day, SA's shouldn't assume things about students/ talk condescendingly but in a friendlier way, maybe a walk to class.
- More connections with teachers to engage students in school

- Athletic teams and/or clubs welcome students in at the start of the day
- Show statistics to family and students
- Increased focus on it
- Connections with parents that allows insight on issues before they get out of hand
- Healthy competition (motivation)
- Looking at in depth factors and giving resources
- Common ways that students miss school: sleeping in missing first couple periods, not feeling it, sick, stressed
- Health classes-mentioning strengthening attendance in schools and showing data, also mentioning the bus app
- Get parents involved
- It would be motivating for students to have attendance be a part of grades. (could be used when you have a borderline grade)
- School starting later could encourage the attendance rate
- Incentives to look forward to going to school
- Common areas to encourage students to be able to socialize before school
- Encourage students to get involved in extracurricular activities as they will have a motivation/reason to come to school

Consensus Question #3 - How can LTHS better communicate with and involve families and students in promoting good attendance habits?

- Personal connection compared to emails and auto calls
- West 40
- Connecting to school community belonging
- If more chronically absent student were involved in clubs/sports there is more incentive for them to attend
 - Activities more engagement
 - Acknowledgement and incentives
 - Quarterly text about absences
 - Reinforcing why school is important
- Great email communication; subject lines depend if emails are all read
- Weekly emails not always read

- Text messaging parents and students mean better response
- Home visits working well from vp perspective
- Parents might not know about students' tardiness
 - Friendlier more personal informing emails/calls
- Connect kid to school
 - Lack of belonging doesn't encourage students to attend school
- Being open with families and sharing data with them'
- Reach out to parents to reach out to community
- Parents should set a good example for attendance
- Automated email with student attendance
- CLARIFICATION on excused absences
- Easier to navigate online sources and let parents know (they get busy sometimes, and that's okay)
- Infinite campus does not give enough information
- Talk with parents before issues get out of hand
- Parents need to be at open houses, to understand how the school runs and how they can be involved
- Positives; they do a pretty good job communicating with parents and students, serving suspension in school now, summer programs meeting with students families with chronic absenteeism, recognizing good attendance
- Can Improve:
 - Open House, not enough parent involvement, decrease in parents getting updates on their kids
 - Some social media page for parents that highlights how they can enhance their student's attendance or attendance policies, good attendance on your transcript so that colleges can see it
- Early intervention is important to get involved to make sure the problem isn't recurring
- It's nice to know right away with notifications from infinite campus if students are late.
- Important to get parents involved as they would encourage students to go to school and stuff rather than a teacher.
- Another email about attendance might not be the most effective way to communicate the problem.

- Call parents to get involved early to make sure it isn't a recurring problem. ○
Related to attendance, a phone call home would be the most effective way to communicate with parents.
- If parents have to come and meet and talk about absence, parents will be more motivated to encourage kids to go to school and get to school on time
- Continuously meeting with the parents chronically absent students or students with many tardies will help parents in the home
- Daily attendance announcements about days previous announcements
(Competition for grade level) (Rewards) (North vs South)
- Maybe the grade level or campus with the highest attendance will receive something in return (incentivize)
- We want to know what percentage of students are not in activities. (In reference to the new required four period a day to participate in after school activities)
- How can we get students to get more involved in activities so that they can be excited to come to school.
- How can we cater to those that may have to take jobs to contribute to household income
- How can we cater to those that may have to take care of siblings or loved ones?
- Will starting school later help solve attendance problems?