



July 2024

I hope you are all enjoying your summer, but I know that many of you are also planning for the start of the new school year. To support you in your planning, we are sharing some resources on addressing an issue that has been identified in our region—chronic absenteeism. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10% or more of the school year. In the three states served by the R7CC, the 2022-23 school year chronic absenteeism rates were 17.9% in Alabama, 30.9% in Florida, and 23.9% in Mississippi. Chronic absenteeism may occur for a variety of reasons, such as health needs, transportation problems, mental health issues, or other significant challenges. Chronically absent students often fall behind, and even when teachers make efforts to help them catch up when they are in school, it can mean that they don't keep pace with the curriculum.

With the current rates of chronic absenteeism in our region and across the country, I'm sure many of you are looking for resources to help you address this issue. This month, we're happy to share Attendance Works' Year-Long Planning calendars, which can be used as tools for setting up a team to plan activities and events focused on improving attendance throughout the year. The calendars also provide suggested activities and events that can be done throughout the year at the school and district levels. Additionally, the stories shared by school leaders in the *How to Improve Student Attendance & Engagement: Stories from the South Webinar* from the Equity Assistance Center-South and the Student Engagement Attendance Center may also be helpful as you think about approaches to improving attendance and student engagement. Finally, Attendance Works has two upcoming webinars that may be of interest to your team. All of these resources are linked below for your convenience.

We have two new R7CC releases this month, including [part 2](#) of our blog series on High-Leverage Practices for Students with Disabilities and an updated [impact story](#) on our work supporting the Mississippi Department of Education in improving its Professional Growth System and Orientation to School Leadership training modules.

Have a wonderful rest of your summer!

Be sure to visit our website and check in with us on social media to keep up with our work. We are honored to continuously support you during these five years.

Robin G. Jarvis

Robin G. Jarvis, PhD

Director, Region 7 Comprehensive Center



New From R7CC

NEW BLOG – [High-Leverage Practices for Students with Disabilities: A Closer Look at Adapting Curriculum](#)

IMPACT STORY – [Partnering for Success: How One SEA Is Building Capacity to Support Effective Educator Practice](#)



Year-Long Planning Calendars:

These calendars are a tool for planning activities and events to stay focused on improving attendance all year. They include sample calendars for PreK and K–12 site planning, as well as district-level planning, beginning in July and running through the whole school year. Get on the right track to address chronic absenteeism by starting your planning now!

Attendance Works Upcoming Webinars

1. **Creating a Culture of Belonging and Engagement: Principals in Action:**
Wednesday, August 7, 2024; 2:00–3:30 pm CT/3:00–4:30 pm ET
2. **Leadership for Sustainability: Superintendents Making a Difference:**
Wednesday, September 25, 2024; 2:00–3:30 pm CT/3:00–4:30 pm ET



EAC-South Webinar

[How to Improve Student Attendance & Engagement: Stories from the South](#)



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