

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Topic: Feet to the Seat Initiative 2019-20

Short Summary:

This is the second year of implementation for the Feet to the Seat Initiative. In an effort to expand and increase effectiveness the following modifications have been made to the existing program:

- All LRSD schools will participate instead of only 20 schools
- Attendance School Based Teams will receive quarterly professional development and coaching supports from AR Campaign for Grade Level Reading
- A Chronic Absence Taskforce has been established to make data based decision with hopes of strengthening district-wide systems and to determine attendance incentives for parents and students. The Taskforce is comprised of community partners, parents, and district staff.
- \$40,000.00 grant from United Way to provide quarterly attendance incentives to the 20 identified schools from 18-19 school year. LRSD Attendance Taskforce will determine criteria for quarterly incentives.
- Enhancement of the Feet to the Seat webpage to share the following:
 - Weekly Satisfactory Attendance Reports for All Schools
 - Monthly Attendance Report
 - Resources for staff and parents
 - LRSD Feet to the Seat Social Media Platform

Background:

The following schools actively participated in the 2018-19 Feet to the Seat/AR Campaign for Grade Level Reading Initiative through tracking attendance, participating in district sponsored events, and by implementing school based strategies: Bale Elementary, Baseline Elementary, Brady Elementary, Chicot Elementary, Dodd Elementary, Mabelvale Elementary, Meadowcliff Elementary, McDermott Elementary, Romine Elementary, Stephens Elementary, Terry Elementary, Wakefield Elementary, Washington Elementary, Western Hills Elementary, Cloverdale Middle, Henderson Middle, Mabelvale Middle, Hall High, JA Fair High, and McClellan High. Data indicated that other schools could benefit from participation in the initiative in an effort to reduce the rate of chronic absenteeism. Comparisons of chronic absenteeism rates for the past three school years indicated the following:

A **continued increase** in chronic absenteeism during the 2018-19 school year:

- McClellan High School 2% Increase
- Mabelvale Middle 3% Increase
- Baseline Elementary 5% Increase
- McDermott Elementary 7% Increase
- Meadowcliff Elementary 5% Increase
- Romine Elementary 5% Increase
- Stephens Elementary 16% Increase
- Terry Elementary 3% Increase
- Wakefield Elementary 3% Increase
- Washington Elementary 5% Increase

The following identified schools remained **flat** without an increase or decrease in chronic absenteeism rates during the 2018-19 school year:

- Henderson Middle
- Chicot Elementary
- Dodd Elementary

The following identified schools displayed a **continued decrease** in chronic absenteeism during the 2018-19 school year:

- Hall High 3% decrease
- JA Fair 4% decrease
- Cloverdale Middle 8% decrease
- Bale Elementary 3% decrease
- Brady Elementary 1% decrease
- Mabelvale Elementary 4% decrease
- Western Hills Elementary 4% decrease

The following unidentified schools displayed an alarming percentage of chronic absenteeism:

- Central High 22%
- Dunbar Middle 28%
- Pulaski Heights Middle 28%
- Rockefeller Elementary 39%
- Watson Elementary 28%

In an effort to address the high percentage of schools with moderate to severe chronic absenteeism, LRSD Executive Leaders chose to include all schools in the Feet to the Seat Initiative during the 2019-20 school year.

Evaluation:

- Targeted weekly review of schools with 95% Satisfactory Attendance
- Decreased number of schools with severe to moderate chronic absenteeism in the district

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Goal 1 of District Plan of Support: Teachers and administrators will build a safe, supportive, and collaborative culture to increase student achievement and growth.

- **Action-**Expand the AR Grade-Level Reading Campaign to include all LRSD schools with an emphasis on school attendance through the Feet to the Seat Initiative

Key Points:

- Truancy Vs. Chronic Absenteeism
- Professional Development for School Teams
- Attendance Task Force
- Incentives
- Webpage

Key Players:

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Principals

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