



DIGITAL DIALOGUE

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Getting to the Problem Behind the Symptom

A Unique Primary Prevention Collaboration Between Child Welfare and Education



*Join the National
Conversation
on Child Abuse
and Neglect*



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Jefferson County, Kentucky

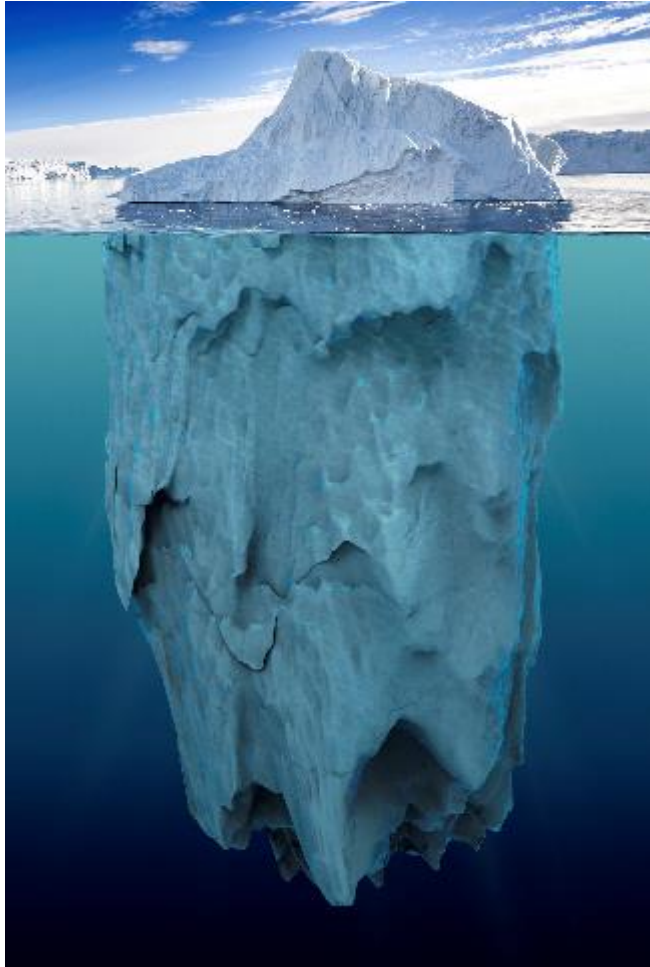
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- Largest school system in Kentucky, 29th in U.S.
- 81% of children in Louisville attend Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS)
- 169 schools
- 96 elementary schools
- 93,361 students
- 62% of students are eligible for free or reduced price meals
- 345,808 TOTAL unexcused absences for 2017-2018

Signal Indicators

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Truancy is not
the problem,
but the
symptom of a
bigger issue.

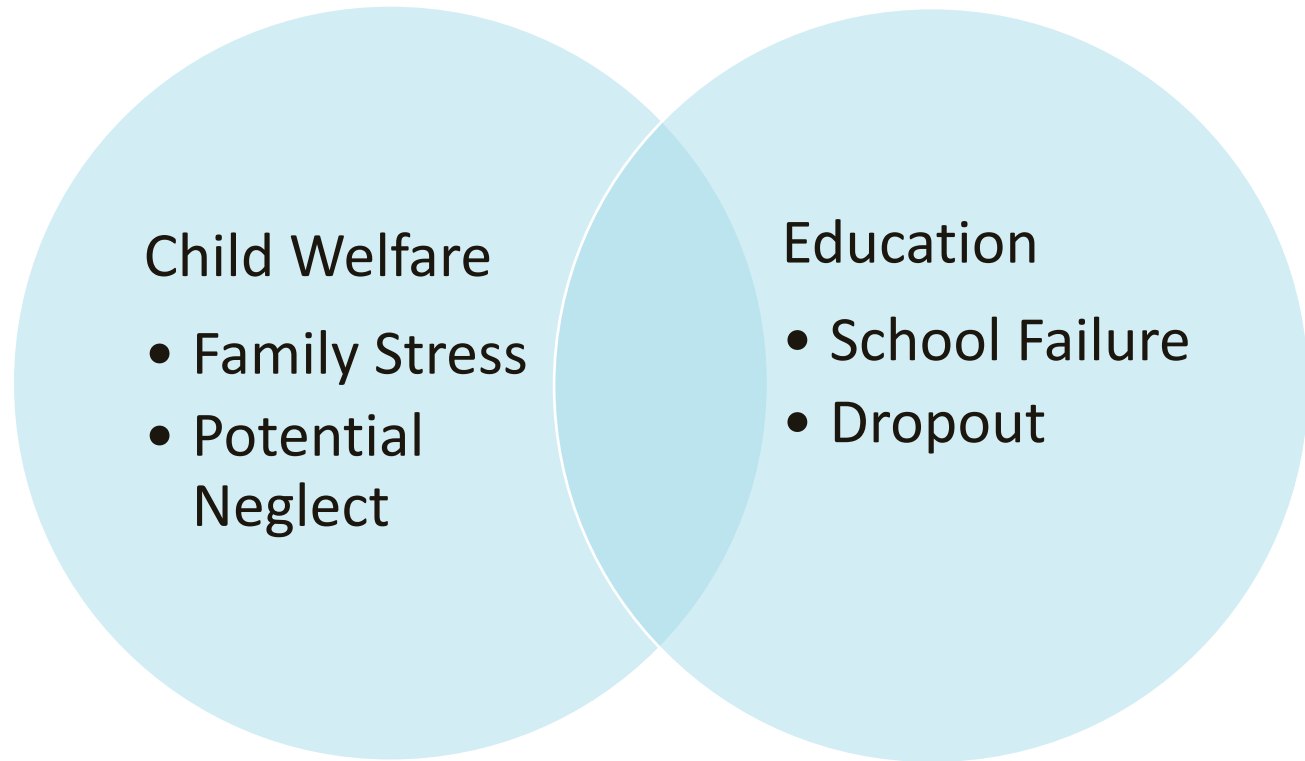
Typical Barriers

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- Homelessness/transiency
- Transportation
- Drug abuse
- Lack of childcare
- Behavioral issues
- Chronic illnesses
- Need for services
- Lack of support system
- Lack of routine

Centering a Collaboration

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Impact on Society

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- Chronic absenteeism (missing 10% or more of the school year) is a problem for 1 in 10 kindergarteners and first graders nation wide. It is as high as 1 in 4 in some areas.
- By 6th grade, students missing more than 20% of school have only a 10-20% chance of graduating on time.
- By 9th grade, missing 20% of school can predict dropping out better than 8th grade test scores.
- Every student who does not graduate costs our society an estimated \$260,000 in lost earnings, taxes, and productivity.
- High school dropouts are more likely to be arrested and/or have a child as a teenager.

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Parent Engagement Meeting

Principles Behind the Approach

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- All families have strengths and are capable of change.
- Strengths are enhanced when acknowledged and encouraged.
- People gain a sense of hope when they are listened to.
- Options are preferable to advice.
- Empowering people is preferable to controlling them.
- A consultant is more helpful than a boss.

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Who are the players?

Building Your Team

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- The parent
- Family members
- School representative
- Social services representative
- Facilitator



Before the Meeting

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- Students flagged at 6 unexcused absences.
- Family checked for Child Protective Services activity.
- All parties arrive with appropriate documents.
- Exchange of information amongst team before parent arrives.



Common Plan Components

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- JCPS attendance policies
- How to turn in doctor or parent notes
- Referrals for services
- Education on community resources
- Parents will communicate with school and/or teacher
- Duties for members of the team
- Navigating use of school buses

Keys to Success

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- As few people as possible!
- Make sure parent feels supported.
- “You will never be punished when asking for help.”
- Ask open-ended questions.
- Verbally identify strengths you notice.



PEM Statistics

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- **2016-2017 School Year**

- 248 PEMs held
- 371 Children served
- 61 No shows
- 78 Families referred to CPS for Educational Neglect after PEM held
- 75.4% deferred from CPS for Educational Neglect

- **2017-2018 School Year**

- 344 PEMs held
- 498 Children served
- 65 No shows
- 47 Families referred to CPS for Educational Neglect after PEM held
- 86% deferred from CPS for Educational Neglect

Benefits

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- Children are going to school:
 - Increases funding for the schools.
 - Helps get families more connected to or involved with school.
 - Improves grades and skill building.
- Less stress on families:
 - Offers opportunity to connect to resources, basic needs, mental health services, etc.
 - Provides a sense of stability for children.

Quantifying the Benefits for each Partner

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Child Welfare

- 148.5 Weeks of investigator time
- Average cost of **\$55,614.23 per open child welfare case**

Education

- \$3.4 million for every 1% increase in attendance

Resources

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- The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Early Warning! Why Reading by the End of the Third Grade Matters
<https://www.aecf.org/resources/early-warning-why-reading-by-the-end-of-third-grade-matters/>
- Child Welfare Information Gateway, School-based Prevention Programs
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/prevention-programs/schoolbased/>
- A Community-Based Prevention Approach: Examples from the Field
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10560-018-0593-x>

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Stay Connected

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Thank You & Next Steps

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- Start chatting your questions to speakers.
- Answer our exit poll questions.
- Download the handouts to learn more. Click on the files in the “Handouts” box on your screen.



Upcoming:

*March 17th, Making it
Add Up: Using a
Common Framework
to Aggregate Impact
Across Prevention
Programs*

Discussion

- Please type questions into the chat box.

